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BLAZES

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TRAIL BLAZERS

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DEDICATION

In loving memory of Miss Amy Conroy



"Let me live in a house by the side of the
road and be a friend to man".



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PREFACE

On behalf of the Conroy Club, we want to express our sincere gratitude to the many people, too numerous to mention by name, who so generously assisted in the compilation and completion of our project "TRAIL BLAZERS" which is certainly a salute to the pioneers and settlers of this area defined as divisions six and seven, being the western portion of the County of Wetaskiwin Number Ten.

We regret that so many of our pioneers are no longer here to relate their own experiences of early days, of hardship and neighbourliness. We feel their descendants have shown that same spirit of co-operation as illustrated by their forefathers when they respectfully and with admiration and love passed on to us their contributions.

No doubt some names or events have been missed, and some mistakes have been made, but we have made every effort to make this book as authentic as possible and hope that its readers will make allowances for any errors or omissions that have been made. They were unintentional.

THE HISTORY COMMITTEE

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Mrs. Vickey Samel
Mrs. Betty Bunney
Mrs. Effie Rathgaber
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Mrs. Daphne Betlamini
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FOREWORD

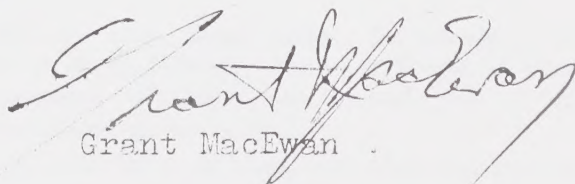
I was raised to hate waste. I hate to see waste of food or clothing or gasoline or soil or anything in the nature of a resource. I hate to see loss of factual information which can be both interesting and useful and let there be no mistake about it, every community in Alberta and elsewhere in Canada, has a wealth of local history which should be recorded for the benefit of the present generation and generations to come.

It is a story marked by courage, tragedy, triumph and humour. It is a story of human experience with which those who plan for tomorrow should be familiar.

I congratulate those who have displayed the foresight and found the time to prepare a local history of this area which has been blessed in many ways. In a sense of history it has been more than an agricultural community. It was the scene of Indian battles, of buffalo hunts, of fur trade activities, of primitive and advanced transportation, of unusual journalism like that which came from the pen of the immortal Bob Edwards, of homesteading adventures, and on top of all, the area could boast some of the loveliest natural scenes embracing soil, undulating countryside, trees, lakes and streams.

As with other local histories, this one will be mainly about people, -and here again, those who came as pioneers were possessed with vigour and robustness and resourcefulness and determination. They possessed also individuality to a great degree. These are still admirable characteristics. Those who were the trail blazers made some mistakes but they had the sense to avoid making the same mistakes the second time, and being resourceful people they knew how to make their own fun. In any local history the humour and the experiences which made men and women laugh should not be omitted.

May your History Committee receive the encouragement its members deserve and may the book find enthusiastic and appreciative readers.


Grant MacEwan

This is a thumbnail sketch of the forty years Mr. and Mrs. Bert Abbott and family experienced in the Winfield district.

We were living in Red Deer, Alberta. Times were getting hard and work was scarce. We were finding it hard to provide for our family of three children. Some of our neighbors, Arthur Jones and Frank Brecken, had come to the Winfield area looking for land and a place to settle. They filed for homesteads and told Bert there was land available near them. So we arrived in the Spring of 1930 and filed on our homestead NW 23 - 46 - 4 - 5. We went back to Red Deer to get ready to move in the Fall. We planted a big garden, and there was wild fruit in abundance, so we had a bountiful larder to bring with us to our new home. We jokingly called our new home "Paradise Ridge".

In the Fall of 1930, we and two more families Fred and Hubert Warner, got a freight car on the C.P.R. that came every day from Lacombe on up the line north. It so happened that Nelspur siding was right on the trail to our homestead, so we didn't have far to move our belongings. On the 13th of October, 1930, we moved into a shack at the Sanford Nelson Mill, which was one and a half miles from where we planned on building our house. With help from Arthur Jones, we had our house ready to move into on Christmas Eve. Our children were small, Joyce - ten, Edward - nine, Richard - four, so we had to get ready for Santa. With Bert's help, we managed to get a tree and decorate it and get everything in order. Santa was very generous, much to the delight of the children. We had Christmas dinner with Breckens, and so it turned out to be a very happy and memorable Christmas for us.

There was no road for cars from Norbuck to Winfield at that time, so our two older children walked three and a half miles down the railroad track to the Winfield school. There were eight other children from our neighbourhood that went to Winfield school. It was a mild winter with very little snow for which we were very thankful. Mrs. Bernard was the teacher.

Mrs. Stella Sabin had the store in Winfield. Alfred Engler owned the first Hardware Store. Bert Woodbridge had the garage, and Sid Carter was the Post Master.

In May of 1931 our daughter Doris was born. I was away in Red Deer for a month, so Bert kept the children and Mrs. Jones baked bread for them.

Bert and the Warner brothers brushed the road from Nelspur to Winfield during that summer. In the Fall, Bert went to Wainwright harvesting. When he returned in October, Mr. Walter Carroll had started mill work on the outskirts of Winfield so Bert was able to get a job there. We decided it was too far for the children to walk to school so Bert built a small house in Winfield and we lived there for a year and a half. Then the mill shut down for awhile and we moved back to the homestead. When the mill started working again, Bert walked every-day for a few months. Then he got the job of foreman and had to be there early and late, so he stayed right at the mill. I was alone on the homestead except for Sundays. It was a very lonely and hard time for me.

In November of 1936, our son Dennis was born. It was a horrible cold, miserable winter. Dennis at four months had pneumonia. Miss Conroy the beloved nurse from Pendryl nursed him through this seige.

In April of 1937, there was a bush fire burning very close to our place. It looked like the fire was going to come right up to the buildings, so I took Dennis, Doris and Richard and walked out the back way to Winfield. The smoke was so thick it was hard to breathe at times, but we got out without any serious mishaps. I went to the planer mill for help. Mr. Carroll sent some men up to help Edward. He had stayed behind to protect our belongings if necessary. He had moved most of the furniture out into a cleared field. The fire came very close to the buildings, but we didn't lose anything.

Carroll's Mill at this time was moved to Calhoun's Bay, Buck Lake. So we spent the summer at the lake. That winter the mill was moved to Buck Creek. I moved to the mill as I didn't want to spend another winter alone on the homestead. Richard was the only one of the children in school. We left him in Winfield to board out and go to school.

In the Spring, we went back to the homestead, planted a garden, and then out to Calhoun's Bay for the summer. In the Fall it was time for Doris to start school, so we built a house in Winfield, and we never lived on the homestead again. When we first moved on to the homestead we named it "Paradise Ridge". When we left with no regrets nor a backward glance Bert remarked "Our Paradise Ridge turned out to be Poverty Plateau". Bert was still away most of the time working in the mill, but we were not so isolated anymore, and it wasn't quite as lonesome.

The Second World War had started by this time. Edward joined up and spent three years of active service overseas. Richard joined up in 1943, but he didn't get out of Canada before the War ended.

In 1945, we moved to the farm at Poplar Valley, where I still reside. As I was raised on a cattle ranch in Montana, I had visions of seeing a few horses and cattle on the farm. My dreams did materialize, and we were very happy. Richard and Edward were home again, although they didn't stay on the farm much. They went their own separate ways.

In 1954, Bert was elected Councillor for Division Seven of Wetaskiwin. Three years later he was re-elected, but only served a couple months of this term in May of 1957. He passed away at the age of 62 years, which left a great void in our lives. But time with its gift of healing is God's handiwork. Dennis was in the Air Force at the time of his Father's passing. As soon as his three years were finished, he came home and has lived on the farm most of the time since.

In 1962, sorrow again hit our family. Richard passed away at the age of 36 years. He was living in Calgary with his wife, Caroline, and four children at the time of his passing.

Our oldest daughter Joyce married Angus Kerr and lives in Edmonton, she has four children who are all married.

Edward married Agnes Cartier and lives on the late James Knight farm. He has five children.

Doris, our youngest daughter, married Harold Kluczny and lives three miles west of the home farm. They have three children.

Dennis married Maxine Bowness and lives here on the farm. They have two children.

Throughout these forty years, there have been good times and bad times, but through it all there are many memories to cling to.

Mrs. Alice Abbott

EDNA ABERCROMBIE

All the information I can give you would concern those who lived at Battle Lake. The Bunneys, Heacocks, Thomas's, Eastmans, Papineaus, Fullertons, Hagens, Hunters, Marsdens, Nelsons, Youngs and others were there before the year 1912 when I was teaching at the Cree Valley School. I know the Thomas family was there by 1907. Mr. Thomas passed away in 1909. Mr. Heacock had the first post office there (and possibly the first store). They moved away in the spring of 1912 when Mr. Hunter took over the Post Office. They had come from Ontario in 1905.

I do not know just when the mill was built and the lumber business started at Battle Lake, but it was 'going strong' in 1912, and several men were employed in the business.

The Battle Lake Church was built in the year 1913. Previous to this, the Sunday School and Services were held in the Cree Valley School house, or in one of the homes. If no other minister was present, either Mr. Nelson or Mr. Heacock would take charge of the service.

A Christian Endeavour Society had been organized and these meetings were held on Sunday evenings. A Literary Society had also been organized, which was actively participated in, and these meetings held occasionally, perhaps weekly.

I may state that I much enjoyed the year 1912 that I taught in the Cree Valley School. I enjoyed, not only the pupils in the school, but also meeting and becoming acquainted with a number of exceptionally fine people whose friendship and helpfulness I appreciated so much.

Edna Abercrombie.

JOHN W. ADAMS - PENDRYL

We came to Canada from Oregon. We left there May 1916, in a covered wagon with three horses. Dad was not well. We wintered at Yakima, Wash., where Dad got a job with a packing house (Pacific Fruit and Produce), and us children went to school. That was my last chance to go to school. There were six children when we arrived in Yakima; seven when we left there. Dorothy was born there in the fall of 1917. Dad went to the Pulloose country for the grain harvest. When it was over we went to Spokane and met him there. Dad had sold the wagon and horses the fall before. Our family at that time were: Dad - John W. Adams, Mother - Ethel Adams, Cecil - (better known as Muskeg Pete now living at Enderby, B.C.) I got that name in a water fight and it has stuck ever since. Freda - (deceased) married Charlie Knieper and had 2 daughters, and 1 son, Darrel - married Ester Boode, lives at Sundre, Alberta and has 4 sons and 1 daughter, Sylvia - (deceased) married Owen Omeara, lived near Winfield, had 2 daughters and 3 sons, Frank - married Rennee from Trail, B.C. now lives near Lacombe, Alberta and has 3 sons and 1 daughter, Wayne - (deceased 1937) married Della and had one daughter, John - married Bertha, Abi - (deceased 1946) married Fred Smith, lived at Kelowna, B.C., had 3 daughters, Bob - married Laura Welch (once lived on the Bryson place, Pendryl) of Summerland, B.C. and has 2 sons and 2 daughters.

We entered Canada at King's Gate, B.C., October 1, 1917. Our first Canadian stop was at Wetaskiwin, Alberta where we spent three days at the Driard Hotel. We met George Nelson there. He told us a lot about the Buck Lake country and how to get there. Dad hired a team and light wagon from Joe Cowan who owned the livery barn. We loaded what we had to have and some food and we were on our way. We soon found out the team was small and were balky as well. That night we stopped near Battle Lake but I don't remember much about it except it was our first nights camp in Canada. We had a graveled or graded road so far, and for another 5 or 6 miles. From there on we had a bush trail. Trees were cut, leaving the stumps. Bridges were 3 logs for stringers across a creek with round poles for a top. They might have had dirt on at one time but that was long gone. The country we were in the second day was level, with a lot of muskeg. Where the road crossed a muskeg it was made of corduroy; round logs placed side by side across the track. The horses managed to get their feet between them all too often, but the wagon just bounced over. We kids walked most of the time now, sometimes getting quite a long way ahead, then hearing something in the bush - or not hearing the wagon rattling, we would hurry back to meet it. Our second nights camp was near a small creek where the water looked black and had a lot of fast swimming bugs in it, but it didn't taste bad. Freda, Darrel and I walked up the swamp for aways and saw our first bull moose. We were frightened and started for camp. On the way we met a skunk, that made us detour. The next afternoon we arrived at Minnehik on the west side of Buck Lake. There we met Ebby Wilson, where we spent the next few days while Dad got a cabin ready for us. There were no homesteads near by, so Dad put a cancellation in on one that was not being lived on (later owned by John Parker). A cabin 14' x 18', had been started so Dad completed it by putting poles on the roof and putting dirt on top. It was OK in the cold weather but wouldn't keep rain out as we soon discovered. We got moved in. Dad took the team and wagon back to Wetaskiwin, worked a few days at the livery barn, then went to work at Fullerton's mill at Battle Lake. In the meantime, the fall rains came. Our house was an active shower bath, so Mrs. Walter Sissons took us to her place to stay until the cold weather came. Mrs. Sissons was a sister to Ebby, Wilbury and Joseph Wilson. The Sissons had 3 girls and 2 boys; Beatrice, Carl, Pearl, Lee and Violet. They had quite a good house by the standards there, also had the Post Office. I had gone to school with Bea, Carl and Pearl in Browns School in Oregon. The Wilson family was Mr. Freeman Wilson, a widower, his sons, Ebby (widower), Wilbury and his wife Augusta, Joseph unmarried, Mrs. Sisson, her husband Walter and children. We knew Wilbury and wife in Oregon. Also living west of the lake at this time were Mr. Coblin a bachelor. Mr. Coblin had a team or yoke of oxen, was a very shy man, or a woman hater (take your choice). Mr. Meikle, also a bachelor, had a nicer house, and had horses and 2 or 3 head of cattle. Mr. and Mrs. Bill Siegel: Herman married Maggie Moody, Allen wed Eva Burrows, Gilbert wed Greta Larson, next door, Kathleen wed Pete Kiss, Isobel wed Charlie Wetherall. The Larson family, Oscar; his wife, Eynar, Greta, Swaya and 2 or 3 more. The Tipping family lived at Wolf River. They were Mr. and Mrs. Tipping, Dalton and Mary. There were more places homesteaded but the owners were away. Among them were George Nelson and Frank Dixon, both bachelors. Going east on the south road, were P.A. Bjur's family, Mr. and Mrs., Alfred, Godfrey, Agnes, Lena, Ebba and Fred. Agnes wed Nick Hag-

blad, they had a homestead on the south end of the lake. Lena wed Henry Brown, they lived on the east side about half way down, Ebba wed Bob Brown and lived near Henry's. Bert Taylor's was next. There were 4 boys: Floyd, Harold, Ralph and the twins; 3 girls were Florence (married if I remember right, a Mr. McLeod). I don't remember the twins names or the other girl. Mr. Carl lived across the creek from P. Bjur's. He was a bachelor and had a cow and a yoke of oxen. He cut all his crop and hay by hand and carried it in on his back. He lived in a dug out the year round and had a dug out for his stock in the winter. He was found dead in his home by a neighbor, 3 or 4 years after we came.

Gust Bjur is next on my list of people east of the Lake. Their children Ivan, Henry one or two more were born after we came, but Astrid and Ines were there. (Gunnar, Ingrid, Irene). Gust later had a store and the Post Office.

The Pocha family lived on the eastern side of the lake. Mr. Pocha was often M. C. at the dances. Lawrence and Dick played quite often. Most of the family could help with the entertainment. The family consisted of Ed, Mrs. Pocha, Stanley, Lawrence, Jessie, Dick, Maude, Velma, Stella, Norma, and Teddie. Harold and Mrs. Weaver had no children up to this time. Later they had a boy and a girl. Weavers had the Pendryl Post Office. Next on the road east was George and Mrs. Berg. In 1917, they had two sons, Clifton and Roy, later a daughter came to bless their home. Frank Bailey lived a mile further on, at the forks of the road; the left hand one to Yeoford, the right to Haverigg, now Hoadley. Frank was a bachelor and gave me my first job in Canada in 1917 - 18. Charley Prince and wife lived a couple of miles away toward Yeoford. Charley drove oxen and had several milk cows which we bought a couple of years later. He made a couple of trips to Wetaskiwin and I stayed on the homestead alone. It took a week to go and back. The first time he went, a very cold spell came on. While the temperature was down to 35 below, the Indian families of George Rains and Bill Simmons stayed all night with me on their way west on a hunting and trapping trip. When Frank got home I got a blast for letting them stay. He even threatened to use a whip on me but didn't try that! Dad came over and built a house for Frank. He found a homestead that he liked, and filed. As soon as the new house was ready, the family came to live, as Dad made a deal with Frank to farm his place. There was a few acres broken on it, and a few acres of meadow. Dad was to get a team of horses, 3 head of cattle and what equipment that was there also \$35.00 per month for a year. In exchange, Dad was to clear and break five acres, enlarge the wild meadow and slash five acres. Frank wasn't able to keep up his share of the bargain, so Dad had to find other jobs to do. Freda went to Yeoford as a mother's helper and bought a cow. Dad and I went there for it and Dad stayed to help Ivo Bunny make hay. He was to work for ten days. I went to bring him home. We both worked for ten days making hay, we then went home for a couple of days. We put up a lot of hay that summer. We had about 60 tons. We had a big garden, and sold turnips for \$10.00 a ton, potatoes for \$20.00, and carrots for \$2.00. In the winter I trapped rats and weasel, caught a few skunks also, and one fur thief and took all his furs and the traps that he had around. I had help in this last venture. I also learned how to net fish during the summer, also to get them ready and smoke them. White fish were plentiful and a couple of days fishing would last for 3 or 4 months. Prairie chickens were also in good supply. Some years there were lots of moose but deer stayed about the same all of the time. Later when the white fish were getting scarce, we caught walleyes and jacks. There were quite a lot of wild raspberries, blueberries and lots of low bush cranberries.

In 1919, I went to work near Clive and was away for six months. Dad had worked at Sanford Nelson's mill and got some lumber. During the winter, later in 1919, he built a house on the homestead. When I came home, we built a barn. Many new people came in during the summer and fall, among them Frank Cook, Jack McLean and the Dewar family. There was Mr. and Mrs., and Harry in one family. Ray, his wife and children. I don't remember their names. Cleve Dewar also homesteaded nearby but I didn't know them at all. (They didn't stay long). I believe the Stratton's came in 1919. Bill Taylor and Sadona Platnic lived where the Pendryl store was later located (now owned by Harold Woodward). They were quiet people and we didn't know them well. Little Joe (why little Joe - I don't know) Betlamini lived a mile south of the store. He had several horses and cattle, also had a bull. Had a couple of nice fields, married a few years later and raised a nice family.

Harold and Mrs. Weaver had the Pendryl Post Office. They had maybe ten acres cleared and in crop when we came, owned a few head of cattle, but I don't remember what they did with them except milk a couple of cows.

Mr. and Mrs. George Berg and boys, Clifton and Roy lived on the quarter east of Weaver's; Omeara's have the place now. They had 3 horses and 8 or 10 head of cattle, usually kept a pig to butcher. Had nice buildings. Albert Davis bought the Berg place and the Berg's moved over to the lake and bought another place. They later had a girl of their own,

and kept the Ellsworth children after Bill was killed by a bull.

Tragedy had struck the Sisson family a short time before the Ellsworth death, when their boys were burned to death in a barn fire. They had lost a little girl a year or so before this.

George Nelson was shot to death in a gun fight in B. C. Frank Dixon lived with Nelson for awhile, then moved over on the Poplar Creek where we lived, trapped a little, did a little farming for a few years. He was found dead near where the south end of Drayton Valley now is. Bill Steer came back to his homestead in 1919, lived there for a couple of years, then died. Mr. and Mrs. Prince moved away in the '30s. Brown's moved away in the late '20s. They always had something to sell; hay, potatoes, grain, pigs, calves, milk cows or something. Joiner family were around. Then as I was away, I lost touch with them. More new settlers came in.

Then in 1920, Sam Weaver had a homestead joining Hal's. He started a store which was a big help. Dad got a contract to change and build a new road from Bill Steer's to Weaver's, so he hired Ray Dewar, Alfred Engler, Jimmy Willows, Darrel Adams and myself to work. Along the back of Engler's place, we made over half a mile of corduroy. We were to cover it with dirt, 6 inches deep, but there was so much rain that there was mud everywhere. So with Jim and Darrel driving slip scraper teams, I loading, Ray Dewar dumping, we covered it with about 10 inches of white clay, that laid there like a thick soup. Later we had a few days of hot weather and that piece of road never gave us any trouble, although other parts of it did until the road was changed to our east line, to the township line and then straight west for 6 miles to the Taylor place. At one time there were 23 gates to open and close to get to Buck Lake from our place. You saw no fat teamsters in those days.

About 1920 or 21, Pendryl school was built. I believe Miss Spitzmiser was the first teacher. She was very well liked by most of the people. Sam Weaver, never a healthy man, died, leaving Mrs. Weaver and two children, 1 girl and 1 boy, with the farm and the store a mile off the highway. So she moved the store a mile north and a mile west. She later sold out to Gus Bjur. By this time, many more people had come to settle in the area.

In 1920, the Albert Davis' moved to the George Berg homestead. They were all very good workers and cleared more land. They had 4 boys; Albert Jr., Earl - later killed in a logging accident on Vancouver Island, Arthur and Lee. The eldest girls name was Alma, the next Beryl, the youngest was a twin. They were Lee and Leona.

The Nelson's came in '21 or about then. Gilbert and his wife and several children, but you can get that information. The Shamps came in then also. Their children were Beryl - married Orin Day, Carol - wed Bill Burns, Bluffton, Della - wed Ray Storm, I believe. Lionel, Fred, Clem and Ray were the boys. The Weaver family moved out east of Wetaskiwin where Mr. Weaver died. Later, the boy was killed in a car accident.

1918, I went to the lake to fish; stayed at Taylor's. Harold and I were the men there as Mr. Taylor and Floyd were away working. Harold and I got a late start going to lift the net, so we rode the horses (Harold was 12, I was 14) as far as the landing. By the time we got our work done it was dark. We had a big catch. We put them in 4 jute bags, tied the tops of the bags together, with a lot of effort, we got them on the horses and headed for home. The horses acted very nervous, and wanted to run. We held them back, being afraid we would drop the fish if they did run, but they got worse all the time. We crossed a small field and looking in the half moonlight, we saw a bear behind. The horses ran the rest of the way home. The bear, following us all the way, wasn't in as big a hurry as we were. We got the fish unloaded and turned the horses loose. They ran away as fast as they could go. Then the cattle ran after them. We could hear the bear near the smokehouse so Mrs. Taylor took the shotgun and firing through a partially opened window, frightened the bear away. By the time we got the fish cleaned and on the racks in the smokehouse it was after 1:00 a.m.

I went to my first dance at Taylor's, a little more than a year later. They had built a new log house, made a puncheon floor, then had a house warming party. We could only dance square dances, but we stayed at it until daylight. Later, the Delongs (Mrs. Walbridge) bought the Taylor homestead. About this time the settlers west of Buck Lake built a bridge where Goose Bay (Rat Lakes) joins the lake, shortening the road by several miles.

Ellsworth bought a farm between Rat Lakes and the end of the lake. They didn't live there long. Bill and Harry Ives were the next owners, both very nice chaps.

1920 - 21 saw a lot of changes in the district. Brown's came in about this time. Henry Kirkneww and his daughter came back to live there. The Horndorfs came back. They had a homestead the north end of the lake. The Burrows family moved in; they had 2 offspring, both adults, Art and Eva. They started a saw mill. Alan Siegel worked for Art. Mr. Burrow died of cancer I believe. He was carried from Buck Lake to Yeoford on a stretcher.

Alan Siegel married Eva Burrows. Art soon moved his mill, to the north end of the lake, where he could get more lumber. There was an Adams family south of the lake. McKays moved in there, also Ned and his wife, they had 6 or 7 children. I can't remember all their names only Claudia, Sarah, Sonny, Vivian and Roy, but there were 2 or 3 more that I can't recall.

The Willow' came in and lived on the Demar place. Mr. Willows was a paraplegic and only came out there for a visit. The Raymond Dewar family went back to Eastern Canada in a few years. The Wetherall boys homesteaded south of our place. Charlie, the eldest, moved to Vancouver but married Isabel Siegel while living at Pendryl, and their son was born there.

After a few years, we had a district nurse in residence. Many of these nurses were very good and did many jobs that a Doctor would normally have done. When they first came, they had only a horse and a saddle. I never heard of a nurse that refused to go on a case because of distance or bad weather. There was a small charge for medicine if a person could pay. Our biggest trouble with the nurses were our bachelors. They married them. Maybe that was a good idea because we had a new family and the nurse was still in the district if she was badly needed.

After 1923, I was away much of the time. Dad got his citizenship papers that year, making us legal Canadians. Freda, our oldest sister married Charlie Kneiper and lived on a farm west of Blackfalds.

Many names escape me of people whom once lived there. Some of them like Tom Fontaine and his father who's homestead was southwest of Winfield, we never met. Tom died in France during the war. His father was thrown off a freight wagon, when his wagon ran into a bad hole. He broke his neck. Coblin went insane and had to be taken to Ponoka during the 1920's.

As I remember the early days of the district, people were all friendly (oh, you would get one now and then that wasn't friendly). If there was sickness or a death, then no funeral service. We just done the job among us. Some one would make a coffin, others would take care of the corpse, and some one would give a grave side talk. The same applied with many other things. If the Police needed help with a case, someone would always be around to lend a hand. When Art Burrows brought in his steam boiler, he had as many volunteers as paid help. He hauled it on sleighs over roads that were no more than poor trails. If a house burned, we made another one, and helped fit it out.

Mike Donovan had a store at Nugent, nearly 20 miles from where we lived, yet we drove there for supplies, coming back the same day. J. P. Nowells, Yeoford, had the nearest store east of us. It was about 24 miles over very poor trails.

The Joiner family were living where Winfield is now. They had a boy Rufus and a girl, Ruth whom I never really met. At Knob Hill, lived Mr. (I believe) George Ward. He was a dentist and did emergency work at his homestead. He also had oxen. The Bunker family had the Knob Hill Post Office. I don't remember them too well.

Wilbury Wilson and Walter Sisson in later years had a saw mill. Siegel's hauled the mail when we first came there (later the Wilson family had the contract). Siegel's had the first threshing outfit; an old hand feed straw carrier and no grain elevator, powered by four horses on a horse sweep. They also sawed a little lumber with this method. Later Herman bought a gas engine and sawed wood, also ground grain around the district. P.A. Bjur made tar from Jackpine for his own use; also tanned hides, often made shoes for his family. He did a very nice job of it also.

Most of the men worked away, staying only part of the year. There were only small fields and no work to be had in the Buck Lake area. Dad did get a job getting out the logs and hewing them and later we built the Buck Lake School on or near the homestead of Charley Parker. That was my first experience making log buildings but did a lot of it later.

George Nelson came home just before hunting season closed bringing a party of hunters, among them a Mr. Fister and his father-in-law, who got lost. We had most of the men out looking for him but three days later he came back. There were a lot of rumors going around as this man had a German name and there was a war on. Some said maybe he was a spy that had come to Buck Lake to meet a contact, forgetting that the whole German Army could be hidden between Buck Lake and the B. C. Border.

Between Christmas and New Years, I went to work for Frank Bailey at Pendryl and never got back to the west side to live. Frank was the son of a wagon maker but for reasons of his own, came to Canada with his partner Carl Demars. Carl was working in Ontario in 1917 but came back two years later.

by "Muskeg Pete" Adams

EMIL AND MINNIE ANDERSON

We were living in Seattle at the time that my Dad - Emil Anderson - filed on the homestead NE 14 - 46 - 3 - W5. Mother, Irma and I travelled to Wetaskiwin by railroad coach and Dad travelled in the box car containing our household effects etc., so that he could look after our team of horses. On arriving in Wetaskiwin the wagon was loaded with the beds, stove and other necessities and our other things were stored to be picked up later. We arrived on the homestead May 2nd, 1911. Dad erected 2 tents - one for a kitchen and the other one for sleeping. We had two bad snow storms after we arrived. Our horses were not acclimatized and felt the cold so much that Dad took them into the kitchen tent. Mother stood beside them and mixed biscuits and one of the chickens we had brought with us, daily stepped behind the cook stove and laid an egg. We lived in the tents until November. Dad died April 10, 1945 and mother - Minnie - died July 11, 1963.

Dad also joined the Yukon Gold Rushers and I was packed in on his back. Like most others we returned none the wealthier. Tom Thurber bought the land in 1962.

as told by Sadie Young

GEORGE AMBROSE

George Ambrose was born at Norbury, Sask. and got his schooling at Big River. He moved, with his family, to Kamloops, B.C. in 1940. Started working out in a gypsum mine at Falkland, B.C. Left there for the Caribou country where he was employed as ranch hand and cowboy, breaking horses. Returned to Kamloops in 1943 and worked in logging industry for a few years. George Ambrose and Fern Henderson were married at Prince Albert, Sask., and returned to Kamloops.

Fern was born at Atwater, Sask. moving at an early age to Northern Sask. She got her schooling at Sturgeon Valley School and took a business course in Prince Albert. In 1939 the family lost their house in a fire. She lost also her father in the fire. In 1941 she and her family moved to Falkland where Fern worked as book-keeper at a general store. In 1942 she returned to Sask., took a machinest course, then went to British Small Arms at Toronto, where she operated a lathe in the manufacture of the famous Sten Gun.

This union was blessed with one son - Grant, born at Kamloops.

George worked as a carpenter for three years then joined the B.C. Dept. of Highways as utility operator for five years. Then he spent another five years in the welding department.

They sold their home and came to Alberta in 1962. After looking over Battle Lake Service they settled for the Service Station at Glen Park. Fern's sister Eileen and family joined her in 1963. In July of 1964, Eileen moved to their brothers farm in the Yeoford district to be followed by Fern and George in the fall. They rented a house from Victor Leonhardt. George started work welding at R. Angus in Edmonton. In 1965 they bought the farm of Joe Garbouski and constructed a new home. Moving onto the place in December, George continued to work till 1967 but since has been a full time farmer raising registered hogs and Angus cattle.

Grant married Linda Bunney August 14, 1971 and they live in Edmonton. He works for the city and she works for the Dept. of Lands and Forests.

REV. R.W. ALEXANDER

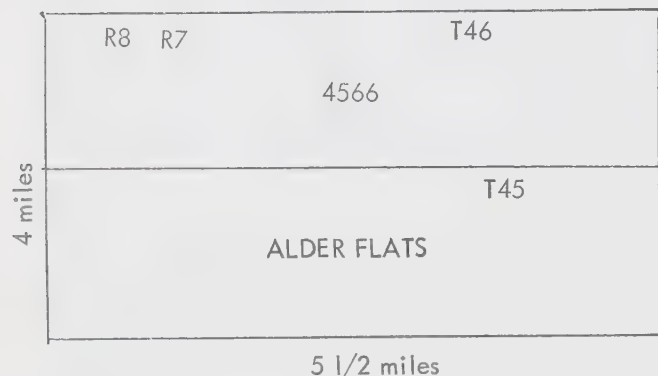
The pioneers did not live by bread alone and church services were soon organized. The first minister to come to Buck Lake was Rev. Alexander. He made his headquarters at Haverigg (Hoadley) and covered all the territory from Hoadley to Rocky Mountain House, Buck Lake, Rocky Rapids and Pigeon Lake. He travelled all this area on horseback and held church services, weddings, funerals, confirmations and baptisms in the Indian and Settlers homes. Some of the first children to be baptized in this area were Kathleen Siegel and Alex Clark. During his many visits to Buck Lake, Rev. Alexander became very close friends with Dalton Tipping and spent a great deal of time observing wildlife. Rev. Alexander stayed at Haverigg for four years and during that time travelled eleven thousand miles on horseback in all types of weather and temperatures.

One experience the Rev. tells about is the trip he made to the home of Mr. and Mrs. Pennywick at Rocky Rapids.

A company had been formed to supply the City of Edmonton with electric light by building a hydro plant at the falls of the North Saskatchewan River. Mr. Pennywick, who was an electrical engineer, was brought all the way from Vancouver to do the work. They left a beautiful home and every comfort to come out here.

After reaching Edmonton, they went by train to Tomahawk and from there travelled seventy miles through very rough country by wagon. On reaching the river they had to leave their furniture and beds on the side where the power house had been built and were then ferried by raft to the side where they were to work. Here they ran up log shacks and made rough furniture. Then the war (1914) broke out. The project fell through and they were stranded; so became settlers. He trapped and worked in lumbering.

ALDER FLATS SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 4566



Chairmen Board of Trustees 1932 - 42

E. J. Davis	1932
A. O. Hicks	1933
A. O. Hicks	1934
A. O. Hicks	1935
Roy Pye	1936
Roy Pye	1937
A. P. Damant	1938
Percy Pye	1939
Stanley G. Watson	1940 Sept.
Percy Pye	1941 Jan. 29
R. W. Minor	1942 Ret. Feb. 20

Teachers

Emma Victoria Danard	September 1 -	1932
Anna A. Rogers	March 20 - July 20	1933
Agnes E. Stone	Sept. 5, 1933 - June 30,	1934
Agnes E. Stone	Sept. 4, 1934 - June 30,	1935
Amy E. Backstron	Sept. 3, 1935 - June 30,	1936
Thomas Sheridan	Sept. 1, 1936 -	1937
Thomas Sheridan	Sept. 1, 1937 -	1938
Margaret A. Hauge	Sept. 25, 1938 -	1939
Emma May McBain	Sept. 3, 1939 -	1940

FIRST PIGEON LAKE CABIN

Mr. Loren Anderson, who with his wife and three children, Douglas, Diane and Loren Keith spent a few days camping on the spot where his father had built what is believed to be the first summer cabin on Pigeon Lake.



Family Cabin
Built by Lorne Anderson

a product of a local smithy. He constructed a large stone fireplace and then proceeded to make furniture of odd shaped roots and branches. Even the name - "Dew Drop Inn" was made of these.

Three children were born to the family, Leora, Loren and Betty, and they lived here until 1937 when they decided to go back to the States.

ANTROSS STORE and POST OFFICE

In the 1920's the Steele family lived at the lumber camp of Anthony Ross Co. Jimmy Steels was Post Master. In 1934 Frank Reid took over the store and post office. Most of the Antross houses were sold and moved to Breton.

NORBUCK POST OFFICE

Frank Rath had the store and post office at Norbuck in the early years. It was located on the Northwest corner, NW 35 - 46 - 4 - W5. It was later moved to the Ralph Burris family home on NW 35 - 46 - 4 - W5. Bill Burris carried on after his fathers retirement. It was closed in 1969.

ANTROSS SCHOOL

The Antross school was built on SW 23 - 47 - 4 - W5, from lumber donated from Anthony and Ross Lumber Co. The first teachers were: 1934 - Miss Frances Hinds, Irene Falkenberg - married Ed Walsh, Mr. Swaggert, Mrs. Lorena Mockerman - supervised in 1945 and Mrs. Emma Flint.

Miss Effie Bowman supervised the school in October, 1946. Mrs. Flint taught the rest of the year.

It is on the boundry of Wetaskiwin County No. 10 but all students around it went to school there as it was the M. D. then.

When Antross was closed in 1948, it was moved to Breton.

Children shown in picture at left are:
Back row: George Impey, Lilly Deisting, Dorothy Ing, Violet Ing, Ed Deisting.
2nd back row: Bill Anthony, Eleanor Anthony, Margaret Grey, Marg. Biro, Myrtle Ing, Doris Deisting, Danelda Grzyb, Lois Anthony.
2nd front: Jim Smith, Dorothy Ayers, Mina Deisting, May Impey, Betty Ayers, Priscilla Biro.



Antross School Children
June 1935

Front row: August Deisting, Harold Ayers, Ted Grzyb, Allan Grey, Frank Smith and Ed Grzyb.

JOHN O. ANDERSON

I came to the Alder Flats - Buck Lake district at Christmas, 1942 so can scarcely be termed an original settler.



John O. Anderson

My birthplace was in the State of North Dakota. I came from that State to Canada with my parents, Ole and Hellene Anderson who homesteaded at Jenner, Alberta.

Since leaving school, my occupations have been many, railroader, farmer, dog breeder and beekeeper.

My main avocations over the years have been the outdoors, its wildlife and its habitat.

I have been a member of such organizations as the Audubon Society and the Canadian Forestry Association, and presently am still active with Duck's Unlimited, The Canadian Wildlife Service and the local Fish and Game League.

MR. & MRS. ORIN ADAMS - WINFIELD AREA

Moved from Wetaskiwin to their present farm, NE 34 - 45 - 4 - 5 (formerly owned by Ted Churchill) because of their desire to bring their children up in the country. At that time there were no conveniences and only a mud trail leading from the main road to their farm.

The Adams children - Keith, Elaine, Brian, Morris and Tresa attend Winfield school. Their home was badly threatened by the big fire in 1969.

In 1967 a bear was shot from their doorway and back through the years many animals such as deer, porcupine and skunk have made the Adams yard their home.

Orin is a battery operator at Rainbow Lake. The family do the bit of farming as he only gets home once every three weeks.

DRUG STORE - ARMITAGE

The first Drug Store in Winfield was opened on December 29, 1934 by Howard L. Armitage, my husband. Previously, he had managed a store in Thorsby. When that was sold the R. C. M. P. in that district suggested that Winfield could be a good prospect to start one of our own.

Mr. Sid Carter, postmaster, agreed to rent half of his building, also to build two rooms on the back for living quarters.

When business increased, we were able to build our own home, which is now the Legion Hall.

During our ten years there, we had our three daughters - our son was born later in Calgary.

We have looked back often thinking of the wonderful friends we made there, and many enjoyable and interesting experiences. I recall clerks in the Drug Store; Fay Johnson, Lois Warner, Hester Scott, Kay Christopher, Joyce Woodbridge, Marie Wennestrom, Gladys Brecken, Nonie Sabin and Ida Hamill. My apologies to any I have omitted.

We sold the store in August 1944, to Nellie Bunney to come to Calgary where Mr. Armitage worked at several stores - and owned our own for ten years - selling it when his health was not good. Since 1963, he had been with Tucker Drugs till the time of his death in January 1969.

JOHN ASTLE FAMILY

John Astle and Catherine McIntyre married August 16th, 1906. John Astle was born August 17th, 1874 and died March 30th, 1958. Catherine (McIntyre) Astle was born December 22nd, 1880 and died March 24th, 1957.



John and Catherine Astle
50th Wedding Anniversary
Held in Yeoford Hall, August 16, 1956

In the early 1930's John and Catherine and family came from the Lethbridge area to NE 26 - 46 - 3 - 5 at Yeoford. Mr. Astle was a retired butcher and they enjoyed the freedom of life in this area. They had five girls and three boys. Joseph, the eldest, married Theresa May Bunney. Gordon, the youngest, married Rita Cook of Redwater. Mild married Mr. Wood, Florence married Mike Duda, Alice married Duncan Chalmers, Margaret married Rex Imeson, Beatrice married Slim Owre.

TOM APPLEBY



Emma & Tom Appleby and their
chosen son Cecil. About 1948.



Jimmie Appleby & Kenneth
Logan. First year at YEOFORD.

The Appleby Story

Tom and Emma Appleby with their children Ethel, Kenneth and Jimmie, along with Tom's brother Archie, moved to the Yeoford district in May of 1940. They settled on the Art Bunney farm about three miles east of the Yeoford store and post-office. They came from the Viking area. Tom and Archie were neighbors to Ivo Bunney who homesteaded at one time near the Viking district, and it was through them that they became interested in the Yeoford district.

They felt fortunate to have the old stopping house and other buildings, some cultivated land, a good water spring and an excellent garden spot when they arrived at their new home. There was also an abundance of wild fruit to be had for the picking. Their closest neighbors were the William Loov family, George Moyer and the George Kimmy's. Their children attended North Yeoford school about one and a half miles from their home. They had some hard and difficult times, but through kindness of the near neighbors, the Loov's and others bringing them vegetables etc., they got by very well.

They received one very sad blow when they lost Jimmie through a drowning accident, when he was almost twelve years old, on November 5th, 1944, when he was skating on a small Lake near their home. Though the ice seemed quite safe, he apparently skated over a spot

where the ice was very thin and went through. Many lost interest in skating for a long time after this.

In the spring of 1945, they found a little fellow Cecil, whom they adopted to try to fill the gap left by Jimmie. Cecil was then two months old, and helped to fill their days and was company for them.

On the whole although they had some hard days, they also felt that they had many happy times with good fellowship with the neighbors. There were school and community picnics and card parties etc. held at the different homes and everyone had time in those days, although they lacked the conveniences of power, pressure systems and other luxuries that went with these things, they were happy.

Tom retired, now resides in Wetaskiwin, Emma having passed away in 1951 and Archie a short time later. Ethel is now Mrs. W. Croskery and resides in Edmonton, Kenneth lives at Prince George B. C. with his family and Cecil at New Westminister, B. C.

THE ARONOVICH BROTHERS

George, and his brother John Aronovich came to Canada from Austria in 1928, and took up homesteads in the Alder Flats area, John on the quarter section S. W. 32 - 46 - 7 - 5., in 1930. George took the S. W. 32 - 46 - 7 - 5 in 1932. They came to Canada to obtain work and to help build Canada. It was crowded in Europe. They came as far as they could by train and walked the rest of the way to Alder Flats. They bought a cow west of Wetaskiwin and led her with their pack on the cows back. In 1934 they brought three horses and a wagon from Calgary also a cow which they loaded on the wagon.

Their first house was made of logs, dug down two feet in the ground and covered with dirt. While working on this house there was a hailstorm with hail - stones as big as golf balls. Later on they built a home out of hewed logs and home-made split shingles. The home-made shingles, put on a barn in the early 1930's are still water tight in 1971. They left their first shack in August and returned in the fall to find a bear had broken the door and wrecked the inside. That was their first visitor. Mr. Damant was the first postmaster and their school was at Alder Flats, later one was built at West Point, north of Alder Flats. John DeCour from Andrew stayed with them one year. He was supposed to teach school there but was not given the job because he was Ukrainian. He is now a judge in Edmonton.

Damants Hardware Store and a grocery store at Buck Lake were the places where the Aronovich's got their supplies. For entertainment they had house parties, picnics and barn dances. Some of their early neighbors were John Anku, Ted, Metro, Bill and Alex Zukiwski.

The crops were poor the first years due to a lot of rabbits and elk. Their greatest hardship was not having any road. The lumber mills gave people work and later on the oil companies. Another brother came to Canada in 1912 and settled north of Alder Flats. He died in 1968. George and John still live on their farms in 1971.

THE ATKINSON FAMILY in WENHAM VALLEY

Norman and Hazel Atkinson with their family consisting of her two sons by a previous marriage, Eldon and Jack Trelford, and their daughter Ellen Atkinson, moved to SE 22 - 47 - 2 - W5 in the late thirties. They moved here from Ilanna, Alberta.

Mr. Atkinson worked on the railroad so was seldom at home. Mrs. Atkinson and the boys had a few cows from which they shipped a bit of cream, a few hens for eggs and a few hogs too. They also had a small flock of sheep and many nights Eldon spent up, saving the little lambs during the cold winter nights. At times he often had to take them into the house to save them.

Jack went to school at Wenham Valley when they first came here. While Eldon attended Breton High School, he boarded with the Rev. George Mackey, the Anglican minister at that time. During the second World War Jack joined the air force and was in the Muskox Patrol in Northern Canada. Some of the winter months Eldon would work in the sawmills, while his Mother looked after the stock. One winter Fred Bellville stayed at Atkinsons with the boys.

At times Mrs. Atkinson would go and live at Hanna with her husband. After Ellen started to go to school she stayed here during the school term. After a few years Mrs. Atkinson's Mother, Mrs. Lucas, came to make her home with them. They built her a little cottage in their yard.

One winters day when Mrs. Atkinson had gone to Breton their house burnt down. They never saved a thing. Eldon was out at camp at the time and never found out about the fire until he came home on the week-end. At the time of the fire Mrs. Atkinson's brother, Bill Lucas was in the process of moving down here from Grande Prairie and had some of their possessions in the Atkinson home and they burnt also. The rest of the winter the ladies lived in Grandma Lucas's house for a while then they moved into the house on the farm Bill Lucas had bought - NW 22 - 47 - 3 - W5. The next summer Eldon built a house on his land - NE 22 - 47 - 3 - W5, he also moved the rest of the buildings from the Atkinson farm up there too. Mrs. Atkinson and Ellen moved back to Hanna to live with Norman. Jack and Eldon lived here for a time afterwards. One winter their cousin Eunice Jackson stayed with them and did the housework. Her boy Peter went to the Wenham Valley school.

After the discovery of oil at Leduc Jack and Eldon left the district to work in the oil-fields. Mr. and Mrs. Atkinson lived at Hanna and Mirror until Normans retirement at which point they moved to the coast. Ellen is married and lives in Saskatchewan. Jack and Eldon too got married, Jack and his wife now are separated, he lives in Edmonton with their children. Eldon and his family are over in Australia working for an oil company. It is his second term over there. A few years ago Mr. Atkinson died, but I believe Mrs. Atkinson is still alive.

Mr. and Mrs. Lucas lived on their farm quite a few years. Mrs. Lucas did go and cook in the lumber camps in the winter. Mr. Lucas too worked in the camps. After they got a few head of cattle he stayed at home in the winter while she worked for a few more years. After they had been here quite awhile they retired in the town of Breton. After a few years Mr. Lucas died, at which time she went up North to live near her son. But within a short time of his fathers death he was killed in a car accident. So Mrs. Lucas lived with a Granddaughter for a while then lived in a Senior citizens home until her death a few years ago. Grandma Lucas lived at Atkinsons until her death many years ago.

WILLIAM (BILL) BACHAND

William (Bill) Bachand was born 1892 at Ironwood, Michigan, U. S. A. He came to Canada in 1898. Cecelia Bachand was born 1897 at Emery, Wisconsin, U. S. A. and came to Canada in 1902. William and Cecelia were married in Legal on December 4, 1916. Three children were born to them there - Delia - February 1924, Albert June 1925 and Leo on October 22, 1928. They came to Battle Lake on December 7, 1928 with a 1926 Buick. Bill worked at Snell's sawmill in 1929. They used to have log booms tied at our lake front. In 1930 he worked on the road when they used an old gas cat and Adams grader. He worked with Albert Nadeau, Ken Hunter, Elvin Wold, over the years. Two more boys were born here - Ernest on October 18, 1931, Arthur on February 22, 1933. He continued to build roads and maintain them for several years. They built roads in the following districts - Westeros, Breton, Warburg, Thorsby, Sunnybrook, Mulhurst, south to Hoadley, Bluffton and Rimbey, also trail leading to the new park that includes Inspiration Point. He also did mechanic work for his neighbors all along. They built and rented boats almost as long as they were here, at one time having as many as 14 - each renting for 10¢ an hour and FREE camping where ever there was a place to park in our yard. Over the years campers have changed from camp fires, to tents, campers and small trailers mostly and a fee is charged for camping now in most camp grounds. During the winter and spring, long hours were spent to clean and refill cracks with tar, repaint them all, repair oars as well as make a few new boats and oars to replace old ones. We would be awakened at all hours so people could be on the lake with the first streak of dawn, and Oh those happy faces when they had a lucky catch. City and business people get so much enjoyment out of dressing in their oldest clothes and relaxing close to nature. Besides constant watch on boats for the fees, there is the occassional one that gets away in a storm or someone leaves the lake elsewhere without taking the boat back. This only happened a couple of times and it was towed home behind another boat. However these incidents are seldom and long lasting friendships are very rewarding. A new law recently compells us to have a lifejacket in the boat for each person going out, it is their choice if they wear them or not. Mr. Bachand passed away in 1964. Cecelia is making her home at Peace Hills Foundation in Wetaskiwin. Delia married Gordon Henderson in 1970 and lives where her uncle Albert Nadeau used to live.

Art and his wife Irene and family live in Kelowna, B.C. Albert, Leo and Ernest have their own homes at Battle Lake. Once Albert Nadeau made a huge boat with an inboard motor; took a bunch of people for a ride to the east end of the lake. Before he got to shore however, the boat sank, close enough, fortunately, that all could wade to shore. Needless to say they had to walk back to Nadeau's. School picnics were held at Nadeaus too.

BAKER'S

Ralph and Irene Baker and family arrived in the spring of 1965 to take up residence on their homestead. Previous to coming to Pendryl, they farmed at Leslieville and Rimbey.

They had a family of six; Margaret - 17 years, Janet - 16 years, Betty Anne - 11 years, Bob - 9 years, Darrel - 7 years and their nephew, Steven Cech - 15 years. Since then, Margaret and Janet have married and moved away from home. Margaret married Laverne Muyres and is living in Rocky Mountain House. Janet married Raymong Becker and is living at Swan Hills. Steven is working for Braidnor Construction at Rainbow Lake.

Also since coming to live at Pendryl, there was one more addition to the family, a baby boy, Wesley, who was born in 1970.

BALSAM S.D. #4897

It was in October of 1944 that we loaded our necessary belongings and travelled by wagon and team to our partly completed teacherage at Balsam. I little realized at the time that this was to be our home for almost four years.

Balsam had opened in the fall of 1943 with Miss June Crook of Pincher Creek as the first teacher.

There were about thirty-eight students in Grades I to VIII. They ranged in age from five to fifteen years. For most of these children this was their second year at school. Some were old in starting and interest in learning was keen and these students progressed rapidly.

The school building was new, made of peeled logs, chinked with plaster. The floor and ceiling were boards. The windows were on the east with two small, high windows opposite. The front had good blackboards and we were well equipped with a barrel type wood heater located at the back on one side. The desks were of the single type. We had the usual grant of Readers. The rest of the text books were bought by the children. There had been a grant for library books with new ones added each year.

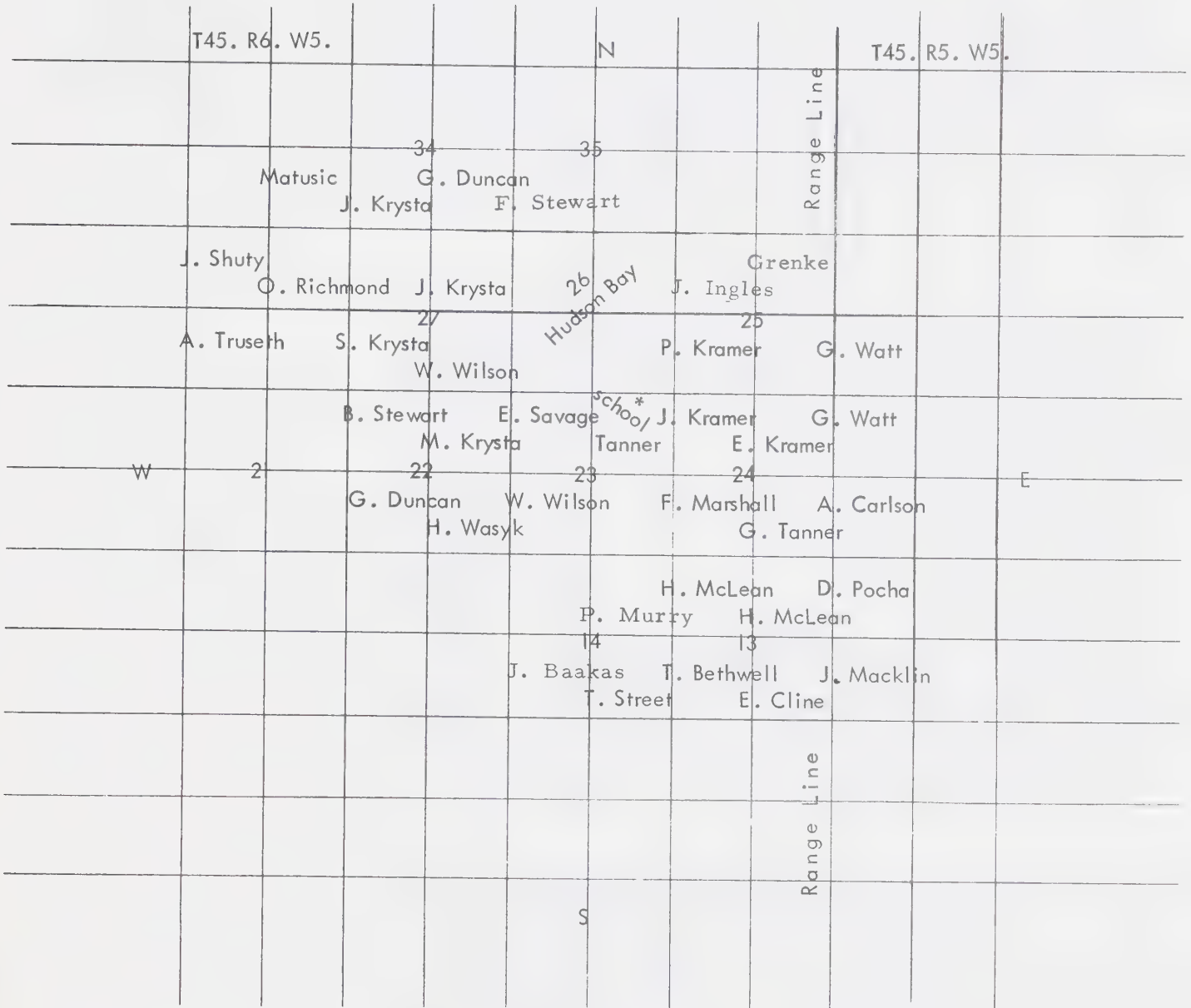
The school sat in a small clearing and the yard was literally a wilderness. The children had cleared a small space to play ball. During my stay here, the tall trees were cleared for the school yard. The logs from the clearing were sawed into stove lengths and fed to the barrel heater to keep us warm. The rest of the wood for heating was hauled.

There was no well at the school and the water for drinking purposes had to be hauled from the spring, creek or in a cream can from a neighbour's well. Three years later a well was dug and how thankful we were for good water.

The school was used for a community centre for dances, box socials and school concerts. The Christmas concert was the special event of the year and everyone did his or her best to make it a success, parents included. On summer afternoons, ball games and the picnic brought the district people together.

Our school life was a serious business. We worked, studied and played together. Our school yard and the back of the room was our gymnasium. The front of the room was our stage.

The school children who attended Balsam from 1944 till 1948 were: Joyce, Edna, Ruby and Bob Baakas, Byron Bloxham, Vivian Bruno, Stanley and Carrie Carlson, Marion Chambers, Clevan and Alma Clive, Julia, June and Edna Howse, William and Edna Jacobs, Joyce, Barbara, Ernest, Gerald, James, Gene and Leroy Kramer, Edna, David and Donald Krysta, Gordon and Maria McKay, Raymond McKay, Irene and Mary McLean, Danny Mitchell, Tom and Peter Murray, Bill, Marion and Hennie Richmond, Marjorie, Grace and Barbara Smeltzer, Patricia and Bob Stewart, Keith Street, Annie, Olga, Alex and Mary Wasyk, Arthur West, Marion and Wallace Wilson. I think also I had Phyllis Howse, Annie Lee and Joe Howse.



This map shows the names of the land owners when the school was built.



Balsam Baptist Women's Society of Balsam School

Man Standing:
T. Bethwell.

Men sitting:
Tom Street, G. Duncan,
Bob Stewart, Ed Savage.

Women:
Mrs. Street, Jean Wilson,
Bertha Cline, Nell Murray,
Caroline Baakas, Keith
Street and the children.



Bill Wasyk and boys of Balsam School

Bill Wasyk had brought some groceries to the school as we were going to have a dance, so he had his picture taken, too.



Balsam Girls - 194

Picture of the Girls that
were attending Balsam
School.

HAROLD & ESTHER BARBER

Harold and Esther Barber and two boys Earl and Ernest arrived at Knob Hill in May 1929 from the Sacramento Valley in California. They took up a homestead and built a log cabin which they later used as a chicken coop when they finished building a larger log house. The homestead was one half mile south of the old Seattle School which Earl and Ernest attended.

During the hungry 30's accompanied by the bitterly cold winters the boys and Harold cut and hauled tamarack fence posts to the Westrose farmers to trade for food or cash to keep the wolf from the door. By the time the boys were fifteen years old they were out working at logging in the surrounding areas such as Edson. Harold worked in a sawmill too and also drove tanker trucks before going back to the United States, leaving Esther and the boys behind.

Earl and Ernest have made their home at Terrace, B.C. for some time now. Ernest lost his life on November 19, 1971 by some fallen electrical wires. Over the years the boys have kept in touch with the Platz family.

by Marlene McClellan

CHARLIE BATES

Charlie was born in Nova Scotia, came to Alberta in 1903, at the age of two years. He lived at Homeglen until 1929, then moved to Vancouver. He returned to Homeglen in 1934 where he met and married Olive Moody. They moved to Bloomfield Lake in 1935 with the first boy, Travis.

While there, they had no means of transportation. One of the neighbors gave Olive a horse which she rode and had a cart to go with it when she needed one. Their closest neighbors were Mr. and Mrs. Buvarp and George Fontaine and family. Charlie drove a dog team to work in Charlie Freeman's sawmill. His wages were \$1.75 per day, this being paid out in groceries not cash.

While working in the saw mill, a large Laplander, Axel Larson worked there and skidded logs into the mill with a team of horses. One day he got stuck and was in a hornets nest. They started to sting him, so he ran to the mill and threw a stick at the nest. A little dog, "Major" ran and brought the stick, plus the hornets back to Axel. He got stung numerous times again. While the crew laughed, he slapped and swore in English and Laplandish. It was rather humorous to all but Axel.

The following fall Charlie went to High River and ran a threshing machine for two months.

In the fall of 1938, a bush fire came in from the south. They filled cans, pails and tubs with water to save the house and had the boat ready to leave. The fire bordered the lake shore, then divided, one went towards Freeman's mill, the other one came up the lake shore, but they held it there. The mill crew came to help them but the fire cut them off and they had to return to save the mill. That night it snowed and put the fire out. That was the first nights sleep they had in one week.

In 1939, the second boy Derrill was added to their family.

In 1941, they bought a quarter section of land, all bush for \$50.00 and moved on it. They built a log house and Charlie built a saw mill and they started logging for themselves. They finally could go modern, so they bought three cows, at \$75.00 apiece, a 1926 Model T truck, which was quite classy in those days, and 19 mink. Each week they took the boys and loaded up the cream which was then hauled to Bluffton. The cream cheques amounted to \$5.00 or \$6.00, bought the groceries such as tobacco at 45¢ a can, 100 lbs. of flour \$1.98, jam 35¢. Everything else was in accordance, boots \$2.98 a pair, blue jeans \$1.98 a pair.

They kept the mink one year and got \$6.00 a pelt. The oldest boy stayed with Mr. Fink for two years while he attended school, south of Homeglen, then returned home. While on this farm they had three more children, Lance, Darlene and Elaine. Things went on the same, sawing in the winter, gardening and picking berries in the summer - as many as 400 quarts of fruit and 300 quarts of vegetables were canned each year. This land is presently owned by Mr. & Mrs. Ed. Hunt.

In 1949, they bought a homestead for \$5.00 and moved to that land. They built a large house, barn and other buildings. Morley Williams cleared and broke 70 acres of land for them.

The children, except the oldest one, started to school at Lakedell. They went by bus but had to walk 3 miles to get to the bus, and 3 miles back after being let off at the end of the day. Two more children were born, Barry and Norris.

Their main operation was milking cows and raising hay.

In 1967, they sold their farm to Bernie Rycroff and moved to Dawson Creek, B. C., where they still make their home.

Travis lives in Whitehorse, is unmarried; Derrill lives in Edmonton, is unmarried; Lance lives in Edmonton, is married and has one child; Darlene lives at Powell River, is married, has two children; Elaine lives in the Yeoford district, is married to Clayton Garbowski, has three children, Norman, Vanessa and Michael; Barry lives in Edmonton, is unmarried and Norris lives at Whitehorse and is unmarried.

BATTLE LAKE AND MOUNT BUTTE

Named because of Indian battle in the late 1800's.

The picture below shows Battle Lake's narrowness, $\frac{1}{2}$ mile in widest spot and 6 miles long. Because of its extra depth and narrowness and heavy rock formation, which is exposed several feet above the lake level, it is believed to be a result of a glacier slide. It is well known for fishing or just pleasure site touring along its edge.



Mount Butte's dazzling magnificence in fall colors cannot be matched anywhere. Mount Butte is a land mark that draws people for miles.

Swimmers have to beware as Battle Lakes banks drop sharply not too far from the waters edge. The only boats and campsites to accomodate tourists is owned by Gordon and Delia Henderson, one mile west along the Battle Lake Trail.

The Rt. Hon. Grant McEwan chose its south bank to build a wilderness retreat where he can be close to nature.



Battle Lake Jackfish June 5, 1955

Left: Tony Adams & Colin Gillies Right: Ethel & Colin Gillies
Getting mouths set for smoked fish A morning's catch

BATTLE LAKE CHURCH

The Battle Lake Church was built on the NE corner of NW 7 - 46 - 1 - W5. The land was donated by Heacock Lumber and the labor was also donated. The first minister to hold services was the Rev. James M. Nelson. The church was open to all denominations. In later years ministers from Brightview Baptist Church and Westeros Pentecostal and Full Gospel Church held services. Some were Rev. Jack and Anna Regan, Syd Waterman Sr., Rev. Harland, Rev. Rudy & Mrs. Jacobson, Rev. Ed & Mrs. Hunt who is now holding regular services and lives here on SE 34 - 45 - 2 - W5.

BATTLE LAKE COMMUNITY HALL

Several years after it's demise as a social centre, in the early hours of September 3rd, 1971, Battle Lake Community Hall burned down. It was built in 1938 by George Fontaine and his father John Fontaine with work donated by the community. Dances were free for some time in appreciation of this donated labor. New Years Eve dances held here were the high point of the year and people came for many miles to swell the crowds to overflowing. These, and other dances, were orderly as a rule. One humorous incident is recalled however. Mr. Fontaine always appointed a couple of well built local men to maintain order in and about the hall and on one of the occasions when the town R. C. M. P. paid a visit, as they did from time to time, among those who were issued summons were the two supervisors!

BATTLE LAKE POST OFFICE & STORE

The Hagens kept a small general store till about 1908. Fullerton Fawcett Mill had a store and mail for local people. The Battle Lake post office was opened by Heacock at their store in 1908. Ken Hunter, on NE 7 - 46 - 1 - W5 took over the post office and was post master for several years. In early 1930's John Fontaine and son George started a store $\frac{1}{2}$ mile to the east. They sold to W. A. Jones who also took over the post office after Mr. Hunter retired. Elwin Wolds bought the store and post office after they retired. It was later sold to Mike and Jody Scotnitsky, then Simon and Selma Labutus who closed the store after the post office was closed by postal authorities about 1968.

BATTLE LAKE LADIES CLUB

No History is complete without some lines about the Ladies Club, for these organizations were an integral part of every homesteading community.



One day in the early 1930's a group of ladies gathered at Grandma Freemans to organize a Ladies Club. They drew up a constitution and by-laws, and named their group the Battle Lake Ladies Club. The first president was Grandma Freeman, Secretary was Mrs. Clarence Freeman. The record books covering these early years have been lost or mislaid, so much of the activity and projects undertaken are lost to us, as well as the names of those serving in official capacity, and charter members. We do know that during World War Two a quilt a week was made and sent to the Red Cross. also end-

Battle Lake Ladies Club

Back: Dorothy Phippen, Grandma Freeman, Willah and Enzie Jones, Enid Hunter, Margaret Gronow, Berna Freeman, Anna Young, Alma Nadeau.
Front: Mrs. Ladd, Mrs. Kimmy & Ramona, Minnie Hemstock, June Beath holding Raymond. This photo was taken in 1938.

less bundles of layettes, knitted socks and mittens were also provided. Food parcels were sent regularly to all the local boys in service overseas and they always included cigarettes - their plea - in every letter home.

From the early years the club sponsored a Christmas program and provided all the children of the district with candy and oranges and some years gifts too. They made Quilts and raffled them to supplement their funds. Membership was five cents a month. Donations were made regularly to Red Cross and Cancer Funds as well as a trophy to the Mount Butte 4H Beef Club which started in the 1960's. Assistance was given to any in the district who suffered loss or injury. The sick and hospitalized were remembered and flowers sent to funerals of district residents.

Among the early members were the following - "Grandma" Freeman, Mrs. Bernadine Freeman, Mrs. Edith Freeman, "Grandma" Margaret Hunter, Mrs. Enid Hunter, Mrs. Minnie Hempstock, Mrs. Esther Fullerton, Mrs. Alice Fullerton, Mrs. Enzie Jones and Willah, Mrs. Annie Young and Alice, Mrs. June Beath and Betty, Mrs. Ella Kimmy, Mrs. Fay Kimmy, Mrs. Florrie Cotterill, Mrs. Margaret Gronow, Mrs. Dorothy Phippen, Mrs. Ladd, Mrs. Asta Ladd, Mrs. John Ladd, and Mrs. Alma Nadeau.

All manner of conveyances were put to use to attend meetings, including "shanks - Ponies", but they did attend. Isolation and loneliness and hardships were a common bond and women came together for companionship and in so doing helped each other and their community. Every ladies club has been the butt of jokes and ridicule by husbands and bachelors alike, but no community was on the road to progress until it had a group of dedicated and determined women of good will and humor to work for it. Who is to say how many homestead wives and mothers have had sanity preserved by the companionship and sharing of troubles of a group of fellow members, and always there was the gift of laughter to help over the hard spots. The Battle Lake Ladies Club is still going, and still actively serving this district in many ways open to it. If the time comes when it ceases to be, the warmth and fellowship of the rural district will be well into extinction.

ELMER BAUMANN

Elmer & Betty (nee Killaly) Baumann purchased their farm when they got married on January 9, 1947. However they did not live on it until February 1952. The farm was the old Bob Able homestead. The Able's had three girls and moved to Brockville, Ontario about 1926.



Elmer and Betty Baumann family - 1971

Back row: Donald, Douglas, Dawna, Dennis, Darline, Brian.

Front row: Kevin, Betty (mother) Michael, Elmer (father), Richard. Sitting between her parents is Shannon.

After living on SW 10 -47 - 2 - W5 for two years they decided to move to Drayton Valley to work to buy more land and machinery.

There was no road, only a trail into their farm and everything had to be carried in or out the half mile. With no children going to school there was no hope of getting a road. When the children did start school they purchased the SE 4 - 47 - 2 - W5 farm from Tom Wentz who moved his family to Alliance. This was the former Pete Garbauski farm and he had moved his family to Wetaskiwin.

Mrs. Baumann and their family stayed on the farm while Mr. Baumann worked for an oil company.

They purchased other land from Mr. Baumann's brothers. They now own 7 quarters. Their ten children attended school at Lakeland and Pigeon Lake Regional High daily travelling by school bus.

They raised three daughters;

Dawna - Mrs. Bernie Juneau, is a Nursing Aide at Hinton Hospital and has one son - Trevor; Darlene - Mrs. Larry Kobeluck, at the Texaco Plant at Cynthia and has one son - Dwayne; Shannon - the youngest, now 6 years old and is going to school; Seven sons; Doug - is Office Manager for M & R Trucking at Drayton Valley, he married Gwen Tabler of Falun and they have one son - Dean; Dennis - married Debbie McAllister and has one daughter - Shannon and live in Drayton Valley and work for M & R Trucking; Brian - 19, working for an Oil Company at Drayton Valley; Donald - 16, Richard - 14, going to Pigeon Lake Regional High; Michael - 12, and Kevin - 8, going to Lakedell school.

For their Twenty-fifth wedding anniversary their children gave them a plane trip to Hawaii.

JOHN BAUMANN

John Baumann was born February 6, 1902 in Russia to German parents, Mr. J. Baumann Sr. and the former Miss Justina Zarbauck. They immigrated to Medicine Hat in 1911. In July 1924 they started out with a team of oxen and horses and August 5th, they finally arrived in the Thorsby district.

John worked for farmers in the Leduc area where he met and married Otilie Niemann, who was the daughter of Ludwig Niemann and the former Wilhameina Wedman who arrived in Leduc district from Russia in 1893 when Edmonton consisted of two stores. After they were married they rented the farm of their late brother-in-law, George Niemann, until they pur-

chased their own farm four miles south west of Thorsby.

They lived on their farm at Thorsby during the depression years and their children attended Dnester School named after a river in Russia. They had to haul wheat by horse and sleigh to trade for flour and had to do the same for Medical care.

Nine children were born here before they moved to the Yeoford area where they purchased the John Jancy's farm on March 28, 1944. (John Jancey family moved to Millet and are still there). The youngest child Bob was born here.

They lived here until their retirement to Thorsby in March 1970. They raised five daughters; Alma - Mrs. Keith Rains, living at Westbank, B.C.; Lea - Mrs.



John and Otilie Baumann family - 1960

Standing: Evelyn, Fred, Bob, Esther, Arnold, Elmer, Rose.

Sitting: Lea, Mr. John Baumann, Mrs. Otilie Baumann, Alma.

Glen Beath on a farm at Battle Lake; Rose - Mrs. Larry Fipke on a farm south of Battle Lake; Esther - Mrs. Clarence Hugg who now own the family farm. They have one son Gary, and three daughters Beverly, Brenda and Laurie. Esther belongs to Yeoford Ladies Club; Evelyn - Mrs. Leland John of Warburg. Their five sons are Elmer wed to Betty Killaly also living at Yeoford, have three girls and seven boys, Douglas, Dennis, Dawna, Darline, Brian, Donald, Richard, Michael, Kevin & Shannon. Arnold - a toolpush, wed to Bernice Jensen and living at Leduc; Ben - a mason, wed to Elaine Rains living in Edmonton; Fred - is wed to Bertha Gascon and is owner of M & R Trucking in Drayton Valley; Bob - is wed to Linda Tugwell and is trucking at Drayton Valley too.

Mr. and Mrs. Baumann have 23 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren.

WALTER BAYNES

The Walter Baynes family moved to the Wenham Valley area in the year of 1926.

Mr. and Mrs. Baynes with their three children moved onto the North East quarter of Section 28, Township 47, Range 3, West of the 5th. They moved onto the Jack Raoulston farm.

They came out from Wetaskiwin and were met at Yeoford by Mr. Frank Fowler who took them to their new home, a log house that the former owners had lived in.

Mr. Baynes built a frame house for his family and also built the necessary outbuildings for a farm in the early days. He built his new house near the road, as the old log one was quite a ways back from the trail.

Mr. Baynes bought some sheep from Slim Anderson. He is still a great advocater of sheep for this district. Mrs. Baynes was a registered nurse and administered to the wants of the community. She was the district nurse for many years, while they lived on the farm.



Mr. & Mrs. W. Baynes, family 1929

Mrs. Baynes continued on as a district nurse after they moved to Breton.

Mrs. Baynes travelled about the country with a horse and buggy. In the winter time she used a sleigh.

The Baynes children, two girls and one boy attended the Wenham Valley School. They drove with their horse and cutter or horse and buggy to school. After Nellie and Joe finished school, Mary, the younger girl rode to school on horseback.

The Baynes children have all been married. Most of them are already grandparents.

The two girls live at the coast. Joe and his wife live in Wetaskiwin.

Mr. Baynes lives in Breton and owns a hardware store. Mr. Baynes was a Magistrate and Comissioner of Oaths for many years and still serves in this capacity in Breton.

Mrs. Baynes passed away a few years ago.

GLENN AND LEA (NEE BAUMANN) BEATH

When we were married July 1954, we settled on E $\frac{1}{2}$ - 30 - 46 - 1 - 5, that Glen bought from his dad (Ross), and known as the old Kortzman place. We started a new building site and Glen built a two roomed house and kept adding a room or two as the years went on. At that time there wasn't a road, just a trail that went past our place. When it rained we were unable to get out. Glen also built a barn, very inexpensive, made out of logs with a slab roof which we are still using today. Total cost, \$30.00. We had been given six cows from Dad Beath which was our real start in farming.

In 1956 Glen and Ross got a self propelled 21 M. H. combine, the first one in this district. I milked the cows and kept the home fires burning while Glen went to work in the oil fields for a few years.

We bought another quarter of land to the south of us N. E. 19 - 46 - 1 - 5 that was Armand Nadeau's property, before that David Wilson owned it. We got the power in 1958, telephone in 1963 and running water in the house and barn in 1966.



The Glen Beath Family
Top Row: L to R Terry, Lea, Glen
Front Row: L to R Karen, Teddy

ROSS AND JUNE BEATH

Ross Everett Beath was born in Corning, Iowa, on November 26, 1899 and at the age of 1½ years moved to Rugby, North Dakota with my parents, Joseph and Martha. In 1901 my only sister Helen was born. In 1910 our family moved to Winnifred, Alberta to a farm just



Ross & June Beath Family
Back Row: Raymond, Lloyd, June, Ross, Glen
Front Row: Betty, Elsie, Evelyn

This photograph was taken in May 1956 while Lloyd was home on leave from the Airforce.

the irrigation area we had to take our turn to use the water and it meant long hours with - - - no sleep till the land was all watered and we decided we didn't want that kind of life so we came back to a farm at Winnifred. In 1934 we motored up to Battle Lake to see our friends Bill and Elsie Huff with the idea, to look for land close to school. We also liked the idea of lots of trees for protection, and lakes close by for fresh fish, and berries were plentiful. In the fall of 1935 June and I decided to leave our windy prairie country home south west of Medicine Hat and arrived at Battle Lake on October 5, 1935. We had hired a one ton truck to move our possessions and we came with our 1926 Chev car towing a small trailer also heavily laden. We stayed with Bill and Elsie Huff until we had built a log shack on NW¼ 19 - 46 - 1 W5 in which we all lived for two and one half years. This house cost us \$25.00 complete, and housed June and I and three children, Betty 7, Glen 5 and Lloyd 2½. In 1938 we put a log addition to it and lived in it until we bought Christ Hammerl's place (or what used to be the Ed Nadeau place) in 1954.

The first eight years we cleared land with a shovel and an axe. The first breaking was done with 4 horses - Syd Cotterill and I putting our teams together. Wilber Kimmy broke 13 acres for us with a John Deer tractor. About 1943 Carl Hagen cleared 20 acres for us with his "Cat" and from then on it was cleared with "Cats". Wilsons doing some in 1945 and Morley Williams did several more pieces.

I also might add that the first while up here when we had one horse and one cow they were often harnessed up together as a team to pull loads, when necessary.

During this time our family also increased - Raymond came along in 1937, Elsie in 1942, and Evelyn in 1945. The children went one mile to school at Cree Valley - a one roomed school with nine grades until in later years the schools were amalgated and School buses took them to school at Lakedell. Some of the early teachers were - Mrs. Bernadine Freeman, Miss Esther Papineau, Mae Bunney and Dorothy Bean.

The post master for many years after we arrived here was Ken Hunter. Also general merchants John Fontaine and son George were running the Battle Lake store. A few years after we arrived they also built the Battle Lake Hall on a corner lot across the road from the store and everyone for miles around will recall enjoyable times there for some occasion. Albert Fontaine and family owned and ran the service station right next to the store.

Our near neighbors were Bill and Elsie Huff directly across the road, Mrs. Annie Young, Mrs. Kortzman, David and Mary Wilson, Jack and Lou Hempstock, Dave and Minnie Hempstock and family, (Harry Moore's left before we came), Cecil Dooley's, Martin Young (Shorty to all his friends) family, Syd and Florrie Cotterill, Dean Fowler's and also his father, Tom and Margaret Gronow and family, Bill and Dorothy Phippen and family, Walter and Esther

outside of town. It is a little village about ten miles east of Bow Island. Dad died in 1917 when I was still seventeen. In 1922 I went to Delhi, California and started irrigation farming. On Nov. 5, 1923 I married June Esther Woods. She had a sister Ruth married to Harold Shepherd and they lived on a farm at Winnifred. They were born and raised at Bangor, Maine and had come west with their parents Rev. and Mrs. Harry C. Woods. Mrs. Woods was nee-Fannie Wickett. He ministered to several First United Church Congregations in Alberta.

We lived at Delhi, Cal. - our first home- until 1927. In

Fullerton and family, Wyman Fullerton's, Ed Nadeau and Albert Nadeau families, Burgess and Alice Fullerton family, George Kimmy and Wilber Kimmy families, Charlie Freeman and family and his parents Fred Freeman's, Willie Bachand and family, Ken and Margaret Hunter (post-master), Roy and Enid Hunter and family and several Fontaine families.

June passed away on December 10, 1956 and I have continued with the farm alone. Our family are all married with homes of their own. Betty married William Bunney and lives at Yeoford. They have four children - Clifford wed Beverly Lemke and they are at Whitecourt; Linda wed Grant Ambrose and are at Edmonton; Larry cooks for a catering company in the Arctic Circle in winter months; Robin still attends Winfield school via bus driven by Gary Grover. Glen married Leah Baumann and lives at Battle Lake, they have three children; Terry, Teddy, Karen all attending Lakedell school via bus driven by Vic Fontaine. Lloyd married Thelma Lawrence of Bangor, Maine and lives at Alta Loma, California. They have four children; Wendy, Kevin, Kristy and Kathy. Lloyd works in a dairy. Raymond married Patricia Geddes and lives at Lodgepole where he is in charge of a Goliad oil station. They have four girls; Deborah, Joanne, Brenda and Carla who attend school at Lodgepole and Drayton Valley via bus. Elsie wed Bob Veitch and lives in Wetaskiwin in a mobile home they built themselves after Bob gets home from the Trailer Factory. They have two children; Janine and Dwayne. Evelyn married Ken Walters and they live at Warburg. They have four children; Pauline, Lorraine, Lynn and Wesley. The two go by bus to Warburg school

This fall (1971) I moved to a small home beside Glen and Leah.

MARVIN BECKER

Marvin is the eldest son of Joseph Phillip and Nora Becker(both deceased). He was born at Webster, South Dakota and came with the family to Rimbey at the age of 12 years. There were seven boys and eight girls in the family. Nubbs married Hilda Handbury, Dolores married Joe Laczko, Lorraine married Alex Hedlund, Eileen married Leonard Thronsdon, Bud-die is a bachelor, Georgina married Jerome Marshaldon, Dale married Christine - - -, Sherman married Doris Wennerstrom (he is deceased), Priscilla married Larry Stewart, Marcelline married Whitman Moore, Cordell (deceased), Doug married Evelyn Cummings, Shermaine married Raymond McKay, Yvonne married Pete Murray.

Marvin came to the Buck Lake area in 1933 and married Phyllis Tanner in 1939. They have eight children; Marlene married to Jamie Kramer. They have 4 children, Marty, Janet, Gail and Allen. They live at Buck Lake. Murlin married Judy Kramer. There are two children, Colleen and Darren. They live at Leedale. Milo married Louise Fraser. There is one little girl Leanne. They live at Red Deer. Raymond married Janet Baker. They have two girls Nadine and Carla. They live at Swan Hills. Ralph works at Inuvik, N. W. T. Randell at Swan Hills. Melvin and Roland live at home and are attending Winfield High School.

Marvin started working out at the age of 14 years and for many years hauled logs in the day time for Etter McDougalls and trucked lumber at night. Their land was purchased from A. J. Burrows and is described as NE 35 - 45 - 6 - W5, which he farms.

STARR BECK

Newly married to Starr Beck, my late husband, I arrived at Maywood in the Buck Lake district on Dec, 3, 1938, His Maple Leaf lumber truck and box contained all our household effects and what he called his grub stake. Our newly erected 20 by 24 frame house with



Starr Beck & Vic Carlson
Underwater lines of Silver Spray II

its clean spruce boarded inside walls and fifty-nine cent net kitchen curtains, which even the winter sun could shine through was a thrill never equalled since.

Starr was a Nova Scotian and took pride in a big wood pile, splitting wood was a form of recreation for him. After a crew of neighbors helped saw the pile of logs into blocks.

As it neared Christmas, I without any experience cooking, had to practise. The magic cookbook was my constant companion, starting with the first page I graduated to Christmas cakes, pudding and mince pies. The wedding gift of a

Newfoundland puppy grew big, he ate my baking failures. Starr got the success...

By spring four shelves in our living room and the balance of our first grub stake set me up in storekeeping. My first two customers were Mrs. Frank Stewart and Mr. Charlie Mickey, the latter, I remember bought two pounds of corn meal. The living room, store, chesterfield provided customers and neighbors a comfortable place to sit, chat and get acquainted. Those that came by wagon or sleigh got hot coffee or tea and a lunch.

We were all homesteading, we cared and shared. How fortunate we were to have a truly great woman helping us in the person of our district nurse Miss Amy Conroy. She was friend, judge, councillor, adviser and donar of baby cloths for many of the babies she brought into this world. She came when needed, by stone boat, wagon, buggy, and in the winter by sleigh, muffled from head to toe in her racoon coat. She brought into our homes a sense of courage and security. With our garden vegetables and preserves of wild fruit in our cellars, a barrel of coal oil for light, our wood pile for heat, and our dug well for water there was satisfaction and freedom despite the struggle for survival.

We formed a parent-teacher association, made quilts and sold or raffled them and with the funds bought water pails, mops and calsomine to keep our local Maywood school clean. By Mrs. Sara Dunn Sr.'s efforts, a piano was obtained for the school, in which Mrs. Maude DeLong invested cash to be reimbursed with money raised at whist drives etc.

Once we decided to make some improvements to the nurses cottage, so organized a pie social and dance. We appreciated the lumber men and loggers attendance but objected to their celebrations, we made known we intended having a temperance affair. Starr, overhearing our discussion warned the local bootlegger that we meant business. He decided to cooperate and closed for that evening. He even donated a cushion he had made himself in his spare time, made the coffee, passed cake and sandwiches and made himself indispensable. Later we discovered his business supplies were cashed in the Maywood school attic which we had danced under all evening.

Bush fires in the district gave us the opportunity to bring out the ability to cope, we united as one, helping each other fight fire. When disaster struck we looked after our own. Donations came without asking, in money, temporary housing and food supplies. The practical generosity made one glad to belong.

Starr born in Lunenburg N. S. enjoyed sailing on Buck Lake. He designed and built two Yachts here, Silver Spray I, and Silver Spray II. The latter was chosen by the "Boating Magazine" as the boat of the year in 1955. His friend and neighbor Mr. Fred Bjur helped him in the construction. Before the construction started on the second boat, part of the basement walls had to be removed and the outside exit made much larger. Silver Spray II was 31 ft. 6 in length overall with a 7 ft. beam and 380 ft. of working sail, 240 square feet on the main and 140 square feet in the jib - marconi rigged.

After Starr passed away in 1962, Silver Spray II was shipped to Mr. R. Ray Schwartz, his nephew at Lunenburg. She was shipped in a 40 foot side and end opening box car, under the management of Mr. Wyman Fullerton with the help of many of Starrs friends. Mr. Coleman Kiss provided the winch truck, Dale Fullerton the flatbed, Vic Carlson sawed the lumber and E. Dalkie helped construct the box car supports, besides many others that helped in the hauling and loading at the C. P. R. station in Winfield.

Starr was laid to rest on the hillside of the cemetery in Lunenburg overlooking the sea he loved.

My sister and brother-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. F.R. Parker of Waterdown, Ontario and myself, the Wyman Fullertons, the Curt Smiths and Jim Dunns have since enjoyed sailing the Silver Spray II out of Lunenburg harbour as did Captain Angus Walters, before he passed away.

With the staunch support of all my neighbors and friends, I was able to carry on store-keeping, now in its thirty third year.

Margaret Beck

W.E. BEELBY

The Beelby family; Bill, Myrtle and their sons, Jack and Fred, first came to the Winfield area in 1949, looking for land. Their destination was the Ellingson place.

Myrtle's misgivings began when they were hailed by the crew cutting brush on the road past what is now Melvin Jones' farm. One of the men was badly cut and bleeding profusely. The Beelby's took him into their car and on into Winfield where the district nurse, the only available medical help, could attend his wound.

This done they carried on, to about where Cripps' farm is now. At the sight of the narrow, rutted little trail leading through the bush to the Ellingson place, Myrtle rebelled. The thought of raising the two little boys so far from town, with only that trail for access, with no power, telephone or close medical assistance, was too much. As soon as they found a place in the trail wide enough to turn the car around, they headed back to Saskatchewan.

As his retirement as a locomotive engineer came near, Bill once again sought land in an area where he could raise horses and drive a team to town if he wished to without causing people to wonder about his sanity. In 1962, they purchased the NW 27 - 46 - 3 - 5 from Fred Hien. In May of that year, Myrtle and their younger son, Fred, came out from North Battleford, Sask to take possession of the farm.

Bill joined them upon his retirement in 1963. Since that time, they have kept busy with the breeding, raising and training of their horses, including American Saddle Breds and Percherons.

The only historical note is that Myrtle often walks across to visit her neighbor on a portion of the old mail trail from Yeoford to Winfield that cuts across their farm.

Their elder son Jack, is married and remained in Saskatchewan with his family.

Fred married Sandra Brockway (nee Carpenter) in August 1969. They live on an acreage near Winfield with their daughter, Shannon and son, Frederick Myron.

DON BELSHAM

Don Belsham was born on January 14, 1901 in England and was raised in Glasgow, Scotland. He went to Australia for nine years and was wheat farming, then he went back to England. He came to Canada in the depression. He first met William (Bill) Elliott in 1926, they met again in Winnipeg and Edmonton, and B. C. knocking around together till the World War II and they joined up a week apart but Bill was let out three days before he was in six months, and Don was overseas till the war end.

He came home in August 1945 and stayed with Elliotts till May or June when he moved onto his own farm N.E. 3 - 47 - 3 - W5, formerly owned by Wes and Mona Mason who had one girl Roberta and one son Philip.

Don raised beef cattle and took casual labor. Among the jobs he undertook were D. R. O. for the poles and canvassing for the election, both Federal and Provincial and County, also for vet purposes. He also did road work for the county. When he retired from farming he moved to Winfield where he lived about 3 years before he passed away on September 20, 1963 at 62 years of age.

Everett Dow, Joe Dowell, Mr. Gibbons rented the W. A. Jones home after the Jones' moved to Battle Lake. After 2½ years Gibbons left, Everett Dow went to stay on the Mason homestead while they were away a few years. All three had left after three years.

Don acted in a play the Knob Hill "Columbia Beavers" hockey club toured the area with to raise money for their club, in 1936 or 1937. Everyone in the area had helped build the dam and rink on the Creek back of John Stone's buildings.

GEORGE BERG

At the age of eithy-five years, Mr. Berg gave us this story when we visited him in Wetaskiwin. He started out by telling us of an episode that took place while he was in his teens. He and a friend, seeking work and adventure took a job in 1905 on a Cape Home fishing schooner

that was supposedly on its way to Alaska, but instead landed in Siberia where they, and the Captain were taken into custody by the Russians. They were prisoners for seven days and were really worried, being so far from home with no friends. Finally, he and his friend were freed, taken down river and put on an American ship - a welcome sight, but the Captain was imprisoned for three years, as he was carrying contraband liquor concealed in milk cans.

In 1907, George was in San Fransisco during the great earthquake. From there he went to Mexico. This trip took seventeen days. Later he worked in a shoe factory in Mass., U.S.A.



Mr. G. Berg and Roy-Buck Lake
A good catch - 1926

He married Esther Hylen. In 1912 they decided to come west to homestead. When asked why he came to Pendryl, he said the nearby Lake with its abundance of fish to eat, and wild game being plentiful was the attraction. He described his first trip out from Wetaskiwin as being on foot, west to the German Lutheran Church then winding around on the higher spots as it was very wet at this time, they went on west to Pigeon Lake following the shore line (all cottages now). Stopping over night, for which they paid twenty-five cents and twenty-five cents for a meal. The next day they made it to the Yeoford Post Office, then on to the homestead site. Mr. John Olson, Mr. Swanson and Mr. Berg's brother-in-law, Mr. Mullback all took up land. Mr. Olsons is now the property of Rowland Rupertus, the Bergs is owned by Blaine O'Meara, and the Mullback's by Jerry O'Meara.

They spent the first winter in a huge tent in Edmonton. It had a floor in it and walls up for four feet, so was quite warm. In the spring of 1912 they came by oxen down to Ponoka and then wound about on a trail to Hoadley. Cliff was nine months old at this time.

A small log house was built on the homestead. They lived here until 1918. It was then sold to a Mr. Davis who offered \$1,200.00 in gold for this land. He didn't believe in folding money. Mr. Berg lost no time in getting it to the Bank of Wetaskiwin.

They then moved to the present W. Engblom farm until a house could be built on NW-5 - 46 - 5 - 5, the farm now owned by Roy Berg. Roy, the second son was born on January 17, 1914, the first white child in the district.

It was decided a school was necessary. All the work on it was volunteer. The first teacher was Miss Mast, in 1921.

A daughter, Hazel, was born on June 13, 1923 (now Mrs. Henry Scherlie). In reminiscing, Mr. Berg told us of the Tipping family who had a ranch on the Wolfe river. They arrived in 1906. Later they moved to the land now owned by Henry Brown where they had the first post office known as Minnehik. The mail came by horse back from Yeoford to the north end of the lake and was brought the rest of the way by boat. This was twice a month.

While living on the homestead, groceries were hauled by team and wagon from Wetaskiwin or Ponoka, usually making the trip in late fall or early spring while trails were frozen and passable. Income was earned by taking a team and rack to Killam each fall to assist in threshing operation.

Some of our neighbors in early years were Bill Taylor, Gust Bjurs, Pete Bjurs, Bill Siegals, Ed Irwin, John Illa, Bert Taylor and John Anderson.

Mr. Bill Taylor's housekeeper was the first person buried in Maywood Cemetery. Mr. Berg made the coffin. He also took Mr. Swanson to Edmonton and stayed with him until he died. Mr. Berg helped carry Art Burrows father to Wetaskiwin on a stretcher - a long trek.

Mrs. Berg passed away on January 4, 1944. Mr. Berg left his farm in 1961 and retired in a small house on his daughters farm. He entered Peace Hills foundation in Wetaskiwin in the fall of 1967 and still resides there.

HUGO BERGSTROM

The call of the west has always been strong for Hugo Bergstrom. In 1934 as a young man from Sweden, he hauled lumber from Knob Hill to Wetaskiwin from the Carl Johnson mill west of Breton and the Fraser mill which was west of Fraspur.

In 1940 he started his own sawmill west of Buck Lake and later moved west of Wolfe Creek. Hugo married Annie Snell and continued with the lumbering out here until 1948 when he moved the mill to Nordegg.

The west called to John too. In 1964 Hugo and John purchased Bud Tufts farm, followed by the purchase of Mr. Matrosoff's farm in 1965 and the Dawson homestead in 1966.

In 1971 John moved his family out to the farm while Hugo and Annie reside now in the city of Wetaskiwin.

JOSEPH BETLAMINI

In April 1911 Joe left Nevada on a journey to Canada, travelling by covered wagon. The Lewis family accompanied him on the five month trip. After crossing the American border at Grand Forks they boarded the train to travel through the mountains to southern Alberta as there was no other pass through the mountains. The original destination was the Peace River country but from southern Alberta they journeyed to the Pendryl district by wagon where they decided to settle. Joe purchased 160 acres of bushland for \$10.00 from the government and set out to prove himself a farmer.

With axe and saw and his team of horses he set about to build his first home of logs with roof of birch-bark and sod. After much sweat he cleared some of his land and later bought calves from the Indians to start his herd. Every fall he spent several weeks harvesting in the Wetaskiwin area.

In September 1921 Ermelina Philippini arrived in Wetaskiwin to become Mrs. Betlamini. They were married in Hobbema.

Ermelina was a good homemaker and often helped her husband with farm chores. She cared for a large garden and gathered many wild berries. Meat was provided by hunting wild game and home-made cheese added to their diet. Joe fished a lot at Buck Lake and traded fish for groceries in Ponoka. Sugar, salt, white flour, coffee, tea, rice and beans were their only purchases. They ground their brown flour, made their soap, smoked their fish and cured their bacon and ham. Fresh meat, butter, cream and milk were kept in a box in the creek which served as their only refrigerator.

JOSEPH BETLAMINI



Joseph Betlamini, Family - 1970

Back Row: Neil Hengel, Dan McNiven, Richard McNiven, Martin Betlamini, Richard Betlamini.
Middle Row: Sheryl Betlamini, Rena Hengel, Vicky McNiven, Mrs. Joe Betlamini, Kathy McNiven, Lucy Betlamini, Daphne Betlamini.
Seated: Howard Betlamini, Doug Hengel, Joe Betlamini, Debbie Hengel, Dennis Hengel, Dennis Hengel, Denise Betlamini and Nita Betlamini.



Mr. & Mrs. Joe Betlamini
1949

In 1924 a four roomed house, of log, some lumber and singles, was erected. Joe built many of the chimneys in the district and did some winter work bricking boilers for sawmills. Some of his brick work can be seen at the Sacred Heart Church in Wetaskiwin. He was a man of many trades - the local vet, a blacksmith. Many of his Sundays were spent shoeing horses, and sharpening plough shears at 25¢ a pair. To compare our times, one would pay perhaps \$2.00 a pair for sharpening shears; and during the depression Joe sold dressed halves of beef to the sawmills for 3¢ a pound.

Shortly after the local UFA was formed in 1920, application was submitted for a district nurse. Joe worked on the nurse's cottage which was a community project. He was an active member of the local school board for several years. The nearest post office to pick up their mail was at Buck Lake, a distance of 7 miles, up until 1915.

Joe and Mrs. Joe, as the Betlaminis' were often called, had six children. In 1922, their first child Marie, died at birth. The following year Martin was born, he married Lucy Brzus in 1949, and they have two children - Nita and Howard.

Victoria was born in 1924, she married Dan McNiven in 1946 and they have two children - Richard and Kathy, and one grandchild - Jennifer. They live in the Vulcan area.

Their fourth child, James, died in 1925 at nine months of age.

Dick was born in 1926 and married Daphne Thomas in 1957. They have three children - Sheryl, Denise and Joe. Both Martin and Dick farm the original homestead.

The sixth child, Rena, was born in 1929 and married Neil Hengel in 1950. They have three children - Debbie, Doug and Dennis. They are living in Vernon, B. C.

The Betlamini table was never too small to set another plate at meal time or serve a cup of coffee to a neighbor or stranger. Many people passed through the farm, often Indians enroute to Buck Lake as this was the shortest route.

There was always participation in district functions - from fund raising for Christmas concerts to the annual school fair held every fall - a much looked forward to event.

After a lengthy illness Joe passed away on June 4, 1953. Ermelina now resides at the Peace Hills Senior Citizen's Home in Wetaskiwin.

GUST BJUR

Gust Bjur came from Sweden to North Dakota, U. S. A. about 1909, working there for a year and then came to Canada, getting work on farms in Buford, Alberta. He sent for his fiancée, Anna, also from Sweden, in Nov. 1911. She came as far as Lacombe by train from the east. Mr. Bjur had asked his nephew Alfred Bjur to go and meet her with his team and wagon, as he was working and couldn't leave. Anna told later of how Alfred's team became frightened and ran away. It took both of them pulling on the reins to try and stop them. They had quite a ride over the bumpy roads but they finally ran into an obstacle and had to stop. She said at the time that she wondered if she came to Canada only to end her life before even seeing her husband-to-be.



Gust Bjur & Family
L. to R. Children; Astrid, Ivan,
Ines, Henry.

They were married a few days later in Calmar and lived in Buford a few months, moving from there to Gull Lake where he had purchased a farm. They

made this their home for five years where two children were born (a son Henry, in July 1912, and a daughter Astrid, in Dec. 1913).

In the meantime, a brother told him of the cheap land to be had in Pendryl, so he took up a homestead and built a log house where they moved, making it their home until 1925. Five more children were born here, a son, Ivan, in Sept. 1915; a daughter Ines, in April 1917; another daughter Ingrid, in Sept. 1918; Irene, in March 1922 and a son Gunnar, in April 1924. They had very hard times while on the homestead and all kinds of bad luck fell on them.

During this time when Ines was about 6 years old, she was almost killed by their pet horse, Sadie. While Sadie was eating with other horses, Ines went to pet her, and thinking it was one of the other horses, she kicked, hitting the little girl in the stomach, knocking her unconscious. The children, thinking her dead ran into the house informing their parents of the mishap. They brought her to the house where she finally came to.

One time when Mrs. Bjur went to do her shopping in a one horse buggy; taking three of her children, Ines, Ingrid and Irene (the latter being about 8 months old), the horse suddenly started running. Mrs. Bjur tried with all her might to stop the horse, to no avail. The buggy tore over a rough clearing where Ines was thrown out, while the rest managed to stay on the buggy until they came upon a fence which the horse jumped, leaving buggy and occupants on the other side. Mrs. Bjur was fearful that Ines might have been hurt when she was thrown, however, when she found the little girl she was up and had only a sprained thumb. The baby had slipped off Mrs. Bjur's lap and was laying on the floor of the buggy, unhurt, as were the others.

In 1925 they had an opportunity to purchase the Weaver store and post office, also $\frac{1}{4}$ section of land, so they bought it and moved away from the homestead. They decided to keep the homestead so the boys could farm it and make extra living expense, but they sold it to John Engblom about 5 years later. Buying the store was quite an undertaking, as neither Mr. or Mrs. Bjur could speak or write English very well. Mrs. Bjur made bread which she sold to hunters stopping there and also the bachelors of the district. In a few years they built an addition on the house making this the store and post office. They also farmed the land and had cattle, pigs, and chickens in order to make a living.

In 1930, Ingrid became very ill with pleurisy. Mrs. Bjur had to sit up with her nights for some time. She kept getting worse so they sent for a doctor from Wetaskiwin. He made a hole in her back to drain the fluid from one lung. It was 2½ months before she was well again and then was so weak she could hardly walk.

In 1931, Ines became ill with appendicitis, the appendix ruptured the night before she was to go to the hospital to have an operation. She was driven to Winfield (to go by train to Bentley) in a rubber tired wagon, over almost impassable roads, as it had rained considerably, making the journey torturous. The ride on the train was also very painful for the very sick girl. She was operated on immediately, and when almost recovered after about 10 days, she contacted an abscess on her bowel, caused by the poison from the ruptured appendix. A tube was then inserted in the incision to drain the fluid out. She was able to go home in 3 weeks, but in 2 weeks she became very sick again so Mrs. Bjur phoned the doctor and he came and took her back to the hospital. This time there was an abscess on her kidney, also caused from the poison, so she had an operation on her back to remove this. She returned home again in a week but it took weeks to recuperate.

In approximately 1932, Ingrid had a nose bleed so bad one night that Mrs. Bjur couldn't stop it, so she went for the local nurse who lived nearby. It took even her sometime before she was able to stop the bleeding. She did this by inserting cotton baton soaked in alum water into her nostrils. While doing this some of the blood went down the girls throat, which almost ended her life.

In 1935, Mr. Bjur built a larger dwelling on the other side of the road, containing the store and post office, with living quarters in the back. A few years later he built a dance hall, where a dance was held every 2 weeks, with the ladies of the house providing the lunch. The annual fair was also held in this building, and Mrs. Bjur had to supply meals for the judges. Every summer for 2 or 3 years, the family ran the concession booth at the Buck Lake picnic. Hauling things back and forth in the wagon was quite a chore, though the children thought it was very exciting.

In 1937, Mr. Bjur built a store in Alder Flats. Ines and Ingrid took care of this for about 3 years. Henry drove the mail truck from Winfield to Alder Flats, over almost impassable roads at times. He also helped run the store, when not on the mail route. Ivan and his wife took over after that.

One summer Henry was riding one of the horses and was thrown against a tree breaking his nose. His parents thought he'd bleed to death before he reached the Wetaskiwin hospital. In the period between 1937 and 1945, the children one by one were married. Gunnar remained single, staying with the folks.

In Jan. 1942, Mrs. Bjur became very ill and was taken to the Royal Alex. hospital in Edmonton, where they found she had sugar diabetes. She was also partially blind. Next year in January was taken to an eye specialist. He found that she had cataracts on both eyes. Although she had one removed a week later, and the other about 5 months later, she still could not see too well.

In January 1952 she suffered what was believed to be a stroke, and was taken to the University hospital where she passed away a few days later.

After her death, Mr. Bjur couldn't stay at the store so he went to Fort Nelson, B. C. and stayed with Ingrid and her husband and family for almost 7 months. He worked there as a janitor in the school, also at his hobby of making lamps, etc. out of different kinds of wood he'd found here and there. Ines, her husband and family stayed at the store, helping Gunnar while Mr. Bjur was away. He came back in August but Ines and her family stayed until November.

In June, 1954, Henry and his family moved from Edmonton into his father's store to run it. Mr. Bjur and Gunnar moved into the old house.

The next fall Mr. Bjur had the store moved 2 miles north on Ines' and her husband's quarter, also the nurses cottage, which he and Gunnar lived in while Henry still took care of the store.

About a week later Henry was starting a fire using what he thought was coal oil, but it was gas, which exploded, catching fire to his wife who was standing nearby. She was taken to Rimbey hospital and was transferred from there to Edmonton where she passed away 2 weeks later. Henry then took his children to Yorkton, Sask. for 4 months. When they came back Henry was a completely changed man. The shock of losing his wife was too much, as he blamed himself for the tragedy. Four months later he was taken to General Hospital in Edmonton, and from there taken to the Oliver Institute where he passed away from pneumonia after two years.



Gust Bjur on Homestead



Picture of Pendry!

Three small children were left. Irene and her husband took the 2 eldest, which were boys. The girl went to her Grandmother in Yorkton, Sask.

In Dec. 1956, the store was sold to Mr. and Mrs. McNaughton as Mr. Bjur felt that he couldn't cope with it. At this time Gunnar was working as battery man in the oil fields at Alder Flats.

On June 1st, 1961, Mr. Bjur was taken ill with flu and was taken to the Rimbey hospital and the doctors there found something more serious. They sent him to a hospital in Calgary where he had an operation. Two days later he passed away, for reason unknown.

Gunnar passed away in February, 1966.

PETE BJUR

The folks immigrated into North Dakota, Lamore County, in 1904. Sister Ebba and I were born here. My dad came from bush country in Sweden and couldn't stand the bald prairie, so in 1908, he decided to try his luck in Alberta. He rented a farm on the Battle River west of Ponoka, where we lived until 1910 when he bought a farm on the east side of Gull Lake in the Lincoln district. We lived there until 1914 when he lost this farm through a bad deal with a crook.

Uncle Gust Bjur and Dad came to Buck Lake and he decided to homestead the hill overlooking the lake, which was SW $\frac{1}{4}$ sec 6 - 46 - 5 - 5 and the quarter west of this for brother Alfred with Uncle Gust filing on a quarter 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ miles east.

That fall, lumber and supplies were hauled in and a barn built. The upper floor of this was used as a house. Spring of 1915, after spring work, Bill Doole and Alfred moved the rest of the family in. It was early June when we finally started west with high wagons pulled by four horse teams. Mother drove a buggy with her house plants, of which she was very fond. Two sisters, Agnes and Lena

Taken at the headwaters of the Blindman River on their way to the homestead. -herded the cattle. The second day on the trail, it started to rain and never stopped the whole time we were traveling.

Arriving at John Mann's north of Hoadley, we found the river over flowing its banks. Next day, we moved on to the east fork where it was now 60 feet wide and 8 feet deep. This was ordinarily 8 feet wide and 2 feet deep. We made a raft to float bedding and grub over, first taking a team and rope across and dragging the raft loads until everything was across; even tying the calves on the raft while the cattle swam over. Here we camped for a day and the next day, crossed the west fork of the Blindman River six times. Two days later, we arrived at George Berg's (O'Meara's now) and stopped for lunch. From here it was six miles to our homestead and we had spent six days on the trail.

At this time, Bert Taylor was our nearest neighbor. Others were George Berg and Harold Weaver, east and west were Siegel's, Tipping's and Prusick's. There all had families Bachelors were Fred Furrlo, Dave Ecklund, St. Carr brothers, John and Adolph Engblom. Their land is still farmed by John's son, Walter. The Nystrom boys and E. Stringholm lived south of us. Some early settlers who only stayed a short time were Emerson, Anderson, Pellon's, Smith's and Campbell's - all moving out in 1914.

Those early days were pretty good as we raised a fair garden although spuds often froze in July. There was plenty of wild game to be got if you were a hunter and the lake was full of fish too, also some fur bearing animals to trap in winter. With luck you could make a stake to tide you over till the next summer so we were as happy as if we had good sense!

There were more settlers moved out the first two years than stayed in. Tippings moved to Wolf Creek and the bachelors left for the army. Uncle Gust built a house on his homestead and moved in, in 1917. Oscar Larss came about this time and the Ed Pocha family with Ed's father and mother who were called Grandma and Grandpa by everyone. He was actually the first white settler as he had built a cabin on the lake shore in 1909.

Art Burrows came back to his homestead after the war with a sawmill - the first one in this district.

Elmer Ellsworth bought the former Tipping property and he got the first school organized and was one of the first trustees. That winter the settlers cut logs and hauled to Art Burrows mill to be sawed and planed. In the spring of 1921, they built the school. It was finished on May 1 and was so named Maywood. The first teacher, Miss Mast, had quite a time as pupils were aged from 6 to 16 with very little former schooling and to top it off, it was the teacher's first school too.

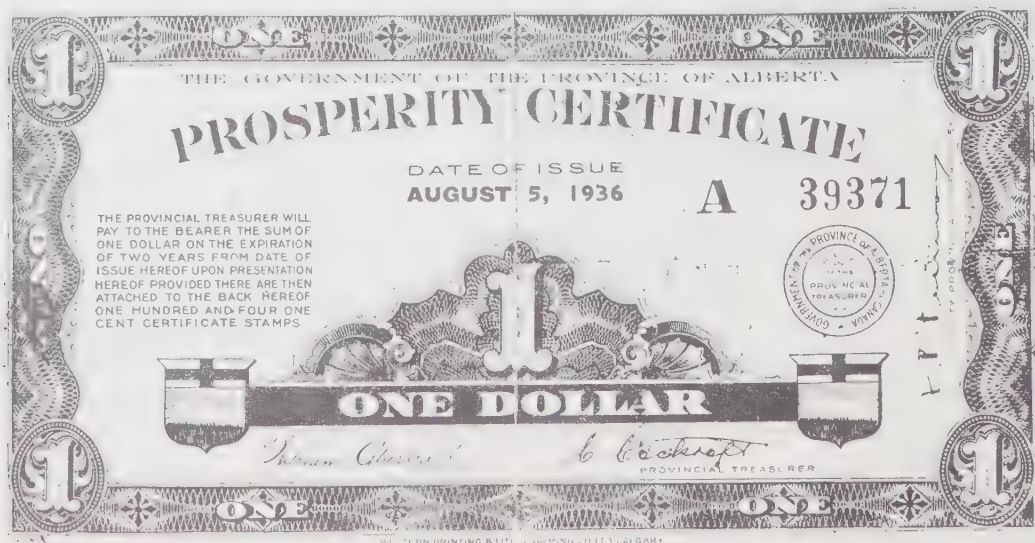
From 1919 to 1925, nearly all the land around Buck Lake and Alder Flats was homesteaded.

1924, the road was graded from Winfield to Buck Lake. This was done with horses, sometimes from 8 to 12 horses hitched to a grader. The muskegs were ditched by hand, the grade corduroyed and dirt hauled with wheel scrapers. As the grade wasn't packed, when it rained the whole road would turn into a mud hole.

1925, Bear Creek lumber company moved in a sawmill at the northeast end of the lake and Wilbury Wilson set up one on the west side so there was work to be had in winter time but not much money, \$40 to \$50 a month for a 10 hour day. The lumber was all hauled to Winfield with horses until the summer of 1928 when Bear Creek tried trucks. They rafted the lumber to the south end of the lake with a paddle wheel scow. Here, there was a landing where trucks were loaded. One truck, a 1928 Chev. the other a Maxwell, and trailers made from hind parts of wagons. These did not last long. A load was 2500 to 3000 feet and the trailers returning empty at 30 miles per hour soon jiggled the wheels to pieces.

The 1930's got really rough but we weren't any worse off than the rest of the country. In 1932, Etter-McDougall moved in a big sawmill to the MacDonald timber berth. At this time, wages were down to \$15 a month. By the time clothes and tobacco were paid for, you were lucky to have \$25 in the spring.

I worked on the road in 1936 with a team of horses and got \$3.50 per day and was paid with prosperity certificates. Shown below



Prosperity certificates meant you put a 10¢ stamp on the back every week. They didn't go over very good. The wholesalers wouldn't take them so the storekeeper was left holding the sack! They were called in after six months.

Times began to get better in the 40's and there was land being cleared and broke. In 1952, oil was discovered on the west and south of Buck Lake so for the next 10 years there was a big oil boom. There was lots of work and good wages. Land opened up for larger farms and now it is really not a bad place to live.

by Fred Bjur.

TO THE BUCK LAKE PIONEER by Fred Bjur

I am one of the Buck Lake brotherhood
An old time pioneer.
We came with some of the first.
My gosh, how I have cursed this country
But still I am here.

Here we sweated and grubbed in the summer heat
And sometimes in rain and mud.
To clear off some land so that we could grow
Some turnips, cabbages and certainly a spud.

Here in those first few years there were only
a few of those hardy old pioneers
That would trap and fish through fair weather
or cold and sometimes the snow would reach to the belly of a horse,
Just to get a stake to see us through another year.

We planted our crops and our garden too!
Sometimes by mid July
Jack Frost came along with his frosty grip
and froze those spuds to the ground
But we got by on cabbage, turnips and fish.

When the fish were caught, they had to be sold
And that was not an easy chore
For the warden was on the watch
for those loads of fish being sold
And not according to law.

After the war the settlers came,
They moved in by the score,
Through rain or shine. And sometimes the mud
Would reach to the hub as they passed our door.

The Shooting South of Buck Lake

Two characters came in 1926. One was named Wilkinson, and another person, a married man with two children, running horses on the hills south west of the Indian reserve. Some horses came missing, so one man accused the other of stealing them. They finally split up. The old fellow moved in with John Anderson. John had gone for groceries and the old fellow was home alone in the shack. Don't know just what happened but Wilkinson came to the door. What happened then nobody knows. The old fellow claimed Wilkinson put his hand in his coat pocket, so he thought he was reaching for a gun. He had his shot gun along side of the cot on which he was sitting. He grabbed it and just fired. He hit Wilkinson in the arm. He turned and ran. The old fellow followed him to the door and shot again, hitting him in the hip, so Wilkinson asked for mercy. The old fellow came down to our place and said he had just shot a man - would somebody go for the nurse. Miss Brighty, being the nurse, came. By the time

she arrived, blood had congealed in his arm and he would have to be taken to a doctor. Rigged up a stretcher in a wagon and took him as far as Yeoford, got a car and by the time he got to Wetaskiwin, blood poison had set in. He died and the old fellow was accused of murder, but got off 'scot free' as they proved it was lack of medical attention.

by Fred Bjur.

RONALD BLADES

Born in Lincolnshire, England. Moved to the Camrose area with his parents in the spring of 1914. Homesteaded in Alder Flats in 1933. Married Marie Stowell in October of 1937 who had also been residing in Alder Flats since 1934. They lived on his homestead two miles north of the hamlet of Alder Flats.

Mr. Blades worked in various sawmills and did road building until the fall of 1947 when they purchased the Alder Flats Coffee Shop and Service Station from Raymond Stowell, where they lived ever since.

They operated the switchboard for Alberta Government Telephones for twenty-one years since 1949 until it changed to dial in 1970.

They had six children: Joyce Anne - born August 1938, Now Mrs. Ken Hayduk of Hayduk's Trucking, Alder Flats. Lester Allan - born April 1940, died January 1941. Elaine Marie - born February 1942. Now Mrs. Dale Rhyason of Edmonton. Gordon Howard - born July 1945. Married Ruth Housch of Hanna. Now living in Red Deer. Lana Carol - born December 1954 and Rod Allan - born April 1958.

THE BLEAKNEY STORY

My husband, Arnold, son Gordon, daughters Lorraine (just out of Red Cross hospital and on crutches), Helen, Phyllis, Lorna and I arrived in the Yeoford district on July 9, 1940. We settled on the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of 31 - 46 - 2 - 5. Coming from Calgary where Arnold had been employed



The Bleakney's

Back row: Helen, Arnold (Dad), Shirley
(Mother) Gordon, Lorraine

Front row: Lorna, Phyllis, Gladys, Clifford

at the Imperial Oil Refinery. When the "dirty thirties" hit, and machines replaced men to operate the different plants at the refinery. The only alternative was "city relief". We decided a farm was a good idea, and a good place to raise our family. The Yeoford area seemed to us to be what we were looking for as our future home. We came in an old Oldsmobile pulling a trailer with some of our household and personal belongings (having shipped other items, farm machinery, two horses and a new colt by rail to Winfield).

Philip Thomas, a friend from Calgary, shipped his machinery and belongings in the same railway car. He settled on SW $\frac{1}{4}$ -5 - 2 - 47 - 5 and his father Ed Thomas joined him later.

We had an exciting trip at least for the children. They had been given a puppy (Tippy) and he was allowed to travel in the car so long as he behaved himself. To the children's joy he sat and behaved beautifully on the whole trip.

We had six "flats" from Ma-Me-O to our home site, arriving in a rain storm on more than muddy roads. We spent the first night with our friends, Grant and Chrissie Dettman and their daughters, Mildred, Della and Yvonne, whom we had known in Calgary. They had moved to Yeoford the year before. They settled on the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ 31 - 46 - 2 - 5 just across the fence from where we would build our home.



Dettmans - July 1961
Chrissie, Berniece and Grant
They sold to Anthony Adams.
SW 31 - 46 - 2 - W5

We erected a makeshift shelter of tarps, pieces of linoleum, etc. until we finished our log house and it rained almost every day. Everyone just went on working as it was usually nice and warm. My husband used to say we were lucky to have running water in our new home, as when it rained heavily the water ran through from front to back. One of our enterprising chickens used to slide under the tarp wall and lay an egg under a bed every day. We were fortunate in having three soft water springs a short distance from our building site, and there was an abundance of wild fruit which was a God-send. Having come out on a relief scheme, we had eleven dollars per month for groceries plus forty dollars to build our house, a raw half section of mostly heavily wooded land, and all clearing was done by hand and hard labor. But we had good and friendly neighbors who gave us vegetables, etc., the first year.

The store and post office, operated by Clifford and Gladys Tuckey with son Ralph and daughter Dorothy, was a half mile from our home. Our nearest neighbors were the Dettman's on the west and Mr. and Mrs. Richard Williams on the east, residing on the site formerly occupied by the R. C. M. P. and residence of the district nurse, Miss Elizabeth Smith (Mrs. Tosten Heldal). Other close neighbors were Mr. and Mrs. Tom Gronow, son Edward, daughters Gwyneth (now Mrs. Philip Thomas) and Eirwen (Mrs. Wm. Baumann).

Our children attended North Yeoford school and walked the two and a half miles. Their first teacher was Miss Elva Gimlett, succeeded by others, Mrs. Smith, Ella Miller, Bertha Mulloy, Isabel Zarowski (a Yeoford girl), Lareen Sutherland, Charlie Craig and Lenora Howard. These may not be in exact order.

Our daughter Gladys, was born two and a half years after we moved to the farm and son, Clifford, two years later, so they did not have the pleasurable experience of walking to school with other neighbor children. The Yeoford School was moved to the site which is now Lakedell School and the children were transported by school van which was operated by Mr. Victor Fontaine.

We were fortunate in having a minimum of illness in our family (other than two -- appendectomies and a major operation in one year) but our district nurse, Mrs. Hendl, was always more than happy to assist in any medical problems that arose in our families that did not require a medical doctor. Whenever she heard of an illness in a home, she would walk or ride horseback to the home bringing a basket of goodies, soup, jelly, fresh fruit, etc. It gave us a good feeling, having her living nearby.

We had a run away fire the year after we moved to the farm. It was started apparently by a careless camper near Mt. Butte in April. Being a very dry year, it travelled fast, even jumping the road in places circling back of the store and back of our place. Neighbors came to fight fire, (some had to stay and fireguard their own homes) and we even had to be ready to leave at a moments notice, packing only important documents, needed clothing, etc., to be loaded on Mr. Tuckey's truck. Fortunately, the fire was brought under control, but the men took turns at night keeping watch for fresh outbreaks. Very frightening with flames on almost all sides and firebrands flying with a hot dry wind. We had to keep our tarpaper roof saturated with water where sparks would land.

We had many happy and some sad experiences, the very sad one when, due to a heart condition, we lost a dear husband and father in 1954. His whole life was built around his wife and family and he loved them very much. It was a real blow to all of us, although some of the family were married by then, Clifford was just eight years old, but with God's help we managed to carry on.

Lorraine is now Mrs. Reuben Hunt of Calgary; Helen, Mrs. Lorne Clark of Cold Lake; Phyllis, Mrs. Bud Pigott of Dawson Creek, B.C.; Lorna, Mrs. Norman Clark of Yeoford; Gladys, Mrs. Merlyn Fontaine of Battle Lake; Gordon residing in Wetaskiwin, having married

Sharon Kimmy of Battle Lake and Clifford residing in Vancouver, married to Julie Larson of Rocky Mountain House.

One terrible experience which occurred in our family in 1965, Lorna's and Norman's youngest boy, about two and a half years, wandered from his home apparently looking for "Grandma's" house (one mile north of their home). This also occurred in April and a very, high cold wind blowing, so if he answered his mother's frantic calls it could not be heard. She finally contacted neighbors for help (Norman was working on an oil rig near Alder Flats and unable to be contacted). Not many had phones then, but those who had, phoned others and radio calls went out for help in the search. The local R. C. M. P. came out with a dog and by evening about five hundred people were aiding in the search. He was finally found in a swamp about two miles from home at about nine or nine thirty p.m. having been gone since eleven a.m. His good friend and faithful pal, Blackie a six month black Labrador dog, stayed with him all day. His Daddy deciding to come home that night arrived about a half hour before Lyle was found. He couldn't understand why all the cars were parked along the road and in his yard. Lyle was suffering from shock, exposure and mosquito bites and spent a few days in hospital. Many prayers and Petitions went up that day and it was truly a miracle that he was found when he was as the temperature went down to twenty-five degrees that night. It must have been a frightening experience for Lyle, as searchers scared up bears and other animals, but Blackie must have protected him well.

Comparing our first years to now, even though we had hardships of a sort and lived in rather primitive style, (no car, power, pressure systems, electrical appliances, TV, etc., that is supposed to be the good life), I believe my family will agree with me that they were happy times, as we had close fellowship with neighbors, played ball, had weiner roasts, skated on a rink made below the Yeoford store, played whist and other games at different neighbors places almost every week-end. Families always went together, going by team and sleigh in winter and team and wagon in summer and walking. We've never regretted leaving the city for the farm. There are still whist parties every weekend in the winter months alternating between here and Battle Lake.

Fred Snell's daughter, Marjorie, is married to my cousin, Carl McDougal.

by Shirley Bleakney.

MATT BODNARUK

Mr. Matt Bodnaruk, better known to most as "Vitamin Joe" came to the Battle Lake district in the early 1940's and at one time owned three quarters of land down by the lake. He later sold this and bought one quarter south of the Cotterill farm but continued to live down by the lake for some time. He was born October 5, 1892, birthplace unknown.

His main company were his goats, and his distrust of people in general did not make for much socializing. An Accident on the Battle Lake road near the Freeman farm took his life October 25th, 1969.

BILL BOHNING

In the fall of 1936 my husband and I and our year old son Don landed in Buck Lake by truck, (a kindly act of one Buck Lake resident whose name at this time escapes me.) We arrived amidst a heavy snow storm, deeply rutted roads and poor visibility to say the least. There, I first met and was warmly greeted by Bill's folks who had lived for many years at Minnehik and who represented the main stay of pioneers and old-timers in that area.

"Mom" Bohning was a large, robust lady with a heart as big as all outdoors. She was "Mom" to everyone that knew her and was respected and greeted by all in just such a manner. The family at home at that time consisted of two children, Goldie and Lawrence both teenagers. Also living with the Bohnings was a very old gentleman we all called "Dad Clark". He was a kindly fellow living on a pension and taking life easy, enjoying "Mom's" cooking and long en-vigorating walks with his dog.

Minnehik was composed of a main thoroughfare which was street, road and the Queen's highway. On the one side and next to the Lake was Inglis' store. A friendly, neighborly place with living quarters in back. Uncle Jack as we all called him, had his niece Margaret helping

him at the time. She helped out in the store as well as looking after the living quarters. I got to know Margaret quite well and we had some good times together. Then there was the Post Office in a small building which was open, usually, only on the days when the mail was coming in or going out, although one could require postal service by calling to "Mitch" the postal clerk, in his yard close by. Mrs. Tipping lived in a cosy cottage next to the post office. She was a dear old soul and as English yet as the day she left England, as I remember her. She and her family were early, early pioneers but by this time only her and her daughter Mary were living, having lost her husband and son years before.



Bill and Anna Bohning
1934
with Lawrence and Goldie

Two bachelors and not so young anymore at that time, lived close by also. These being Bud Kindred and Dickie Bone. I'll never forget a couple of instances which happened to each of these guys, which contributed to the funnier side of life and gave us all a laugh. One day Bud was house-cleaning and had hired a couple of us girls to give him a hand. Everything was progressing well as we scrubbed, cleaned, painted and papered to the last closet when Bud decided to hang paper on the ceiling of the closet while Goldie and I finished cleaning up the general mess. We had a large dishpan of soapy water setting on the floor when lo and behold! Bud stepped backwards off the table with the wet and gooey sheet of ceiling paper held high above his head and plunked seat first into our pan of water.

I think we would have still had to laugh had he broke his neck. He was a sight. Then one day the the Inglis' had their cellar door open, airing the cellar as it had collected some water in the early spring thaw. Dickie Bone walked into it; missed all the steps and plumeted head first into the muddy bottom. It didn't seem to shake him up too much as he got up, clambered out and remarked that he didn't mind too much once he landed but that it was awful lonesome going down.



Bill Bohning Family - 1941
Taken in front of Carl Bohnings store, one of the first
stores at Alder Flats. Taken on Christmas Day.

I can't really remember too many others in those early days of living right there by the Lake, but i'm sure there were a few others I didn't get to know so well and have missed mentioning them.

We stayed at Buck Lake for a few months and then went to Carl Bohning's homestead where we stayed with Carl and Marion and their three children for the rest of the winter. I'll always remember the lovely aroma of Marion's wild meat roasts, blueberry pies and baking-powder biscuits. She was a superb cook and no doubt still is. Later towards spring we moved East a couple of miles to the John Gaffer homestead where we looked after the estate and cared for the stock till the sale. John had been a neighbor homesteader and had died very suddenly undergoing an operation in Wetaskiwin

that winter.

Those were the good old days! No worries, lots of wild berries and meat for the tables. Most men were trappers and hunters and provided well although there was little money to be had anywhere.

We lived in the "west" as we called it, only till 1940 but I still remember it as the Good Old Days. It is a real treat to go back for the occasional visit as I just did for the 1971 Buck Lake reunion of Oldtimers.

by Helen Vogel

CARL BOHNING

Carl and Marion Bohning were married in Drumheller, Alberta, March 2, 1928. Carl was never a man to like the dry, hot prairie, so since there was more dirt in your eyes than on the ground, Carl decided - enough of this - and headed west to take up a homestead seven miles south of Alder Flats. They moved on the homestead with three small children in 1932 and lived there four years. One more child was born while there.

Pets abounded in nature's setting and they had moose, deer and bear as pets. Jiggs, a moose they had as a pet for three years, was shipped to the Zoo in Berlin, Germany.

The last time they were home to see Marion's father, they loaded four small children in a lumber wagon and travelled 175 miles to Cremona, Alberta, sleeping under the stars at night.

In 1936, they had to get the children to school, so they purchased a store. Marion ran the store for 34 years, closing it up in November 1970 when she was 65 years old.

Carl and Marion had seven children: Donald, Herbert, Jean, Marilyn, Shirley, Carolyn and Robert.

While living on the homestead, Mike Shaw, a bachelor, was their closet neighbor, a half a mile away and a family, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Iversen who lived three miles away.

LAURENCE BOHNING

Laurence and Betty Bohning were married May 29, 1946 in Our Lady and St. Peter's Catholic Church, East Grinstead, England. At the time, Laurence was in the Army, serving with the 4th Battalion, Royal Winnipeg Rifles, C.A.O.F.

Betty was working in a welding shop. Laurence returned to Buck Lake in the summer of 1946 and Betty came that fall, making their home in Buck Lake ever since. Laurence took a homestead south of Alder Flats. They had seven children: Anna, Pauline, Ivan, Patrick, Barry, Brian and Ricky.

They had eight grandchildren attending their 25th wedding anniversary.

WILLIAM BOHNING

William and Anna Bohning came from North Dakota to Trochu, then to Vermilion and in 1930, they came to Winfield where they lived one year on the Bunker place east of Winfield, then on to Buck Lake in 1931 and lived in the log house on the old Gibbons place on the hill above the Buck Lake Bridge.

William Bohning, known as "Buck Lake Bill" spent long hours fishing and giving fish to anyone that wanted them. Their door was always open to anyone tired and hungry.

The Bohning's always grew a large garden and picked lots of wild fruit, caught lots of fish and shot wild meat. They also trapped and shot fur bearing animals. Fur was always a good price even in the hungry thirties. They sold bush rabbits for 2½¢ each.

There was commercial fishing in the summer of 1938 and 1939, and large Buck Lake whitefish sold for 25¢ each. Now, when they have commercial fishing in the winter, fish sell for 50¢ per pound.

Bill Bohning and his cousin came to Buck Lake with saddle horse and pack horse the first time in 1906, looking for land. The reason we left Vermilion where we lived is because Anna Bohning had hay fever so bad she nearly died. She never had an attack after she came to Buck Lake.

When they came to Buck Lake in 1931, Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Tipping ran the store and post office. Mrs. Elsie Parker (nee Brown) taught school at the Buck Lake school.

Anna Bohning was known as "Mom Bohning". She was midwife helping the district nurses, or delivering lots of babies herself. Anna Bohning lived 67 years and never washed clothes with a washing machine in her life, and had never lived in a house that didn't have a leaking roof. Every time we put new tar paper on the roof, a hail storm came along and saw to it that it leaked again. Bill Bohning was the manager of the Buck Lake hall and always

opened it up for the homesteaders to flop on the floor coming and going.

William and Anna had ten children, two girls died and are buried at Trochu and one boy at Isley. They have seven living children: Herbert, Carl, Bill, Frances, Violet, Goldie and Lawrence. William and Anna are both buried in Beachmont Cemetery, Edmonton, Alberta.

JOHN F. BORDEN

Mr. and Mrs. John Franklin Borden moved from Wainwright to Winfield on November 10, 1939. Their children were Orman, Louis, Fern, Roy and Sydney. All attended school in Winfield except Louis, who stayed at Wainwright to help his grandfather, Job James.

Later Mr. and Mrs. Job James moved to Winfield and settled on a homestead which is now Lyle Lyster's farm.

Orman took a homestead and the Frank Borden family lived there for years, it is now Scotty Donald's farm.

Fern was married to Arthur Hendrickson of Camrose in 1953, and they have three children; Howard, Rodney and Verna. They live in Bentley.

In 1952 Mable Borden moved to Winfield with her parents-to look after them. Lucinda James died on September 12, 1957. Mable continued to look after Grandfather James until his death in February, 1961.

Louis was employed at a sawmill at Tete Juane for two years. He came home and did some work on his homestead. He passed away in November, 1959.

Frank Borden was at Winfield when he died of a heart attack in January, 1961.

Mabel Borden left Winfield to go to Wetaskiwin to live. Here she met Curt Danielson as he attended the same church as she went to. They were married on December 3, 1963 and they lived at Malmo on Curt's farm. After approximately seven years of married life, Mabel became a widow again when Curt died on November 9, 1970.

She stayed on the farm all winter to look after the cattle which she sold in the spring and summer. She left the farm and moved into Wetaskiwin where she now resides.

JOHN AND IDA BOWMAN

John Bowman arrived in this country from Leeds, England. He fought in World War One with the Canadian Forces 28th Batalion in France and came back to Canada in 1919 where he was discharged in Edmonton. He returned to his homestead at Wenham Valley and with his Soldiers Grant which gave us the 1/2 section. On his discharge from the army, he was offered the FIRE RANGERS job which he worked hard at for 17 years until his death in June 1937.

John came to Canada as a young man to see the country and get work as he was a railway man in the old country (England). Our home was a 2 room shack with log walls and shakes on the roof. (Shakes are home split shingles longer and thicker than shingles). Wenham Valley was our first post office and the mail was R. R. from Wenham Valley to Keystone twice a week and each person got their mail at their gate.

First school was Wenham Valley S. D. N. 2956, built in 1913-1914. Mr. Beckett was teaching 1922-1923, grades 1-8, a tough job compared to the one class rooms now.

We got our groceries at Yeoford with J. P. Nowell merchant and post master. There was also a store at Keystone. The freight came from Wetaskiwin to Yeoford by horse drawn wagons, and from Leduc to Keystone by the same method.

Early neighbors were Dan Nicholson, Ed Elliott, Bill Jones, Mark Wenham who was the land agent for people who wanted to file on homesteads.

Farming the land was done by horses. Water supplies were springs, sometimes a distance from the house so in winter snow was melted and in summer rain was caught in all available receptacles. Spring water was hauled in barrels or pails.

In the early days we travelled by horse and buggy going only when necessary. Now we can jump into a car and are on the road all the time.

by Ida E. Bowman



Fire Rangers in 1921

Mr. John Bowman is the man on the right. Man on left unknown. Leaving on a 2 week round fire inspection of lumber camps, saw-dust pile fires, etc. They repeated these rounds from April 1st, to end of October through the Yeoford, Pigeon and Buck Lake Districts.



Men Hunting in 1920

This is how the men hunted in early days. This is taken in the Buck Lake area in 1920. One of the men is John Bowman and one is Dalt Tipping, other two unknown. Their place in the picture is unsure. This was a good hunt!



John Bowman Home - 1921

Mr. Kingzett sold W.J. Rawleigh products and he took the picture of his wife in the cutter, with John Bowman holding the reins-in front of John Bowman home in 1921. Mr. Kingzett was in the police force in Wetaskiwin, later, for 40 years.

SADIE (GREIRSON) BRAWN - Widow & 7 children

We arrived at the home of my brother, Harold Madden in November 1940 to be able to raise the family without having to move into a town. We came from the Ponoka district where the children attended the Elkhorn School. We motored to Winfield by car and a $\frac{1}{2}$ ton truck brought our household effects. Our home to be was a board building, 16X12 feet, unfinished both inside and out. The next year, a 12 x 12 kitchen was added on, and two years later we build a building 20 x 12, connected by an attic room, to be used for one big bedroom.

We used the Post Office in Winfield, and Mr. Johnson Sr., was the Post Master at that time. His son took over the post office when he got home from the Army.

The children started to attend the Pendryl school when we moved on to the Harold Madden place. I have forgotten the name of the teacher at that time.

We did our shopping in Winfield mostly, at Mrs. S. Sabin's store and at Mr. Peter Wald's butcher shop. Mr. and Mrs. Engler had the hardware store.

Mr. and Mrs. C. Maier were our closest neighbors. Then R. Willows, who was not married when we first moved there. Mr. and Mrs. Niles Clark, Mr. and Mrs. J. Willows,

Mr. Bryson, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Welsh, Charles Marquet.

Brother Harold, his wife Betty and son Bobby live in Calgary now. He had a well dug with a good supply of water for the household and stock. He had this property, NE 1 - 46 - 5 - 5, quite a few years before we came here to live.

One big problem was no phone closer than Bjur's store at Pendryl and in bad weather the roads were hub deep in mud.

We had annual Christmas concerts in our own (Pendryl) district. Often went to Buck Lake for dances and to Winfield Community Hall. Could see a show in the Winfield theatre also.

One blizzard filled our roads up over the fence posts and the temperature went down to 65 degrees below for a day or two. We didn't have a thermometer and Norma walked the mile and a half to the north corner to catch the school bus to the Winfield High School and nearly froze getting through those drifts.

Allan Grierson cut a finger off while he was cutting kindling. Jack Goodkey, Jack Willows and myself took him to Wetaskiwin over muddy March roads. It took us all one night to make the trip out and all the next day to come back.

We had our W.A. meetings at different homes and walked miles to get to them.

Nurse Conroy was our only regular district nurse the twelve years we lived out there and she was truly an angel of mercy.

Mrs. C. Maier and I used to use her buggy and my team to go to Winfield for supplies on the average of once

every two weeks. We had some hairy experiences, upsetting our groceries in the snow. One time the side broke out of the cutter and the horses panicked and scattered groceries for half a mile before I got them stopped.

by Sadie Brawn.

HISTORY OF BRETON AND DISTRICTS - SOUTH - EAST

The Hudsons Bay Post at Fishers Home was the first settlement in this area. Fish, fur, and big game was very plentiful here before the Big Fire in 1884, according to the Indians. Some patches of timber were left standing near lakes and rivers. The Rundle Mission on the shores of Pigeon Lake was the first Protestant Mission to be built West of Winnipeg.

Sanford Nelson was one of the first settlers in the Winfield - Breton district. He cut his own trail from Battle Lake to his homestead in Township forty-six, range three, west of the fifth.

In 1911 Dick Funnell and another man came in North of Breton and called that area Funnell. The colored people came in about that time to North of Breton and called their area Keystone. The trail at that time came in by way of Telfordville and Sunnybrook. Dick Funnell drove a team of oxen to his homestead.

A few years before the first War an English Company started to build a dam on the North Saskatchewan River. Mr. Sanford Nelson took his steam sawmill out there to saw the logs that were to be taken off the land that was to be flooded. The start of the War ended all the work and it was never resumed. A number of settlers that had gone out there to work were left stranded.

When Lt. Douglas C. Breton came back to his place at Telfordville after the War, he started to organize the people to work for a railroad. The Lacombe and North Western Railway had had it's bonds guaranteed by the Provincial Government. The Brownlee Government had to take it over to build to Hoadley. Then in 1926 they decided to go another twenty miles and to name the town after D. C. Breton. The railway got to Breton in November of that year. For a few years the trains turned around at Breton. Then the C. P. R. bought the line and built



Grierson Family
Sadie, Mildred, Annie, Allen
Norma, Jimmie, Jackie, Milton

it to Leduc. During the Second World War it was the busiest branch line in Alberta.
 Pictures of the Bridge Gang - 1913



The Bridge Gang Campsite



Standing in front of the Poplar
 Creek Bridge are:

Ludwig Freber, John Stone (foreman), Oscar Skoglund, unknown, Hjelmer Freberg, Anton Swanson, Eric Norlin.



Bridge, near Norbuck - 1913

With bridge timbers close at hand many sturdy bridges were built with community effort. The above bridge spans Poplar Creek.

Mr. A. C. Bunney a settler at Battle Lake tried growing clover and found that it did well. As soon as the early settlers in the area could get some clover seed they all started growing it too. Mabs Jacobson, a farmer a little North-West of Breton tried growing alfalfa and found that it grew well here too. At one time clover seed sold for a dollar a pound. In 1963, some 500,000 pounds of clover seed was shipped from Breton. In 1926, the University started experimental plots on the farm of Ben Flesher, south east of Breton. They have a field day there every year in July. Hans Hanson won prizes at Calgary, Toronto and Chicago for his clover seed.

When the railway came in, a number of sawmills and lumber camps sprang up. Some of the lumbermen who owned camps at which

many men made their winters grubstake were: Tje, D. R. Fraser Lumber Co., William Anthony, Joe Ross and Pearson Brothers were around Breton and Antross. At Winfield a couple of the early companies were Macdougalls and the Alberta Box, also Carrolls Lumber Co. One of the largest pioneer mills was Andersons and Eliasons about three miles North East of the town of Winfield beside the little swamp lake that is now called the Anderson Lake. At that time it must have been very lovely around there with the huge spruce trees around the little lake. Many men spent quite a few winters there cutting and skidding the logs to the mill, where another crew of men sawed them into lumber. This mill burnt down. There were many other small mills that often sawed logs for the larger companies, or else sold their lumber to the bigger outfits. The lumbering continued until the good trees were nearly all gone.

One great need of the district was medical services. For years sick people had to go to Wetaskiwin or Edmonton to Hospital. Many who went with pneumonia never returned. The F. U. A. Government had placed a District Nurse in this area, she was stationed at Yeoford. Miss S. E. Smith was one of the early nurses, She was a great help to the sick in this area. Many people owed their lives to her nursing care. She would often travel at night on trails that men would not care to venture on. Mrs. Baynes was another of the district nurses, she went around healing the ill and comforting the sorrowing.

After oil was found at Leduc in 1947, the oil companies sent their surveyors and test hole rigs out into this area. The population of the small towns increased. After drilling was started, oil was found in many places. There were oil refineries built at Mulhurst and Buck Creek.

In 1962 the Government started to build a hospital at Breton. Both Warburg and Winfield wanted the hospital in their town but it was decided to put it in Breton as being more centralized. On September the 25th, the Hospital was opened. The first baby was born on

October the 1st and received many gifts.

During the 1930's the farmers had a hard time. The Alberta Wheat Pool built an elevator in Breton during the thirties. An elevator was also built at Winfield but it is now long gone. A few years ago another elevator was built at Breton.

In 1927 farmers East of here at Fern Creek wanted a road to Breton. These men were also fishermen. Charlie Ladd and Earl Smith started to cut open the townline road allowance between township 47 and township 48. When they got near the centre of 47 they came and asked my half brother Cedric Meade and I, Walter Baynes, to help. We were very glad as we wanted the road too. We also got help from a few others. It was quite a job as the snow was about waist deep. A few lumber companies helped a bit too. We built a log bridge over the Strawberry Creek, and a few log culverts. Sometime after this the Government had a man named McKenzie open up a mile or so of the road from corner of the municipalities, one mile East of town. It was rather swampy and gave trouble for several years. The Breton Cemetery had been started in the winter of 1928-29. It was not surveyed till a few years later when the title was obtained. It is now about one third full. The road has been much improved and is now gravelled.

Breton was organized into a village about 1957, a fire hall and office was built. The town council has had several wells drilled to supply water for the town. The Federal Government bought land on the East side of main street and built a Police Barracks and a liquor store there. A new Post Office and a Treasury Branch have also been built in Breton. Until 1945, Breton had only a one roomed school but that fall another was built and now it has a High School and an Elementary School as well. Children are bussed into Breton from the East, North, South and the West.

The Breton Hotel (the present one) was started in 1930. It has changed hands a lot, a few years ago it was enlarged and rebuilt. When they were building the Brazeau Dam the C.P.R. had to put in a small siding to handle the machinery for the Dam. Then it was hauled out from here by trucks.

The first Breton Hotel was called the Pioneer Hotel. It was a block off main street across from where the present Catholic Church stands. A couple by the name of Williams started it, then they closed the place and moved out West of Breton to farm. After Mr. Williams died she moved back into the old Hotel, but did not run it again. Mrs. Williams used to raise canaries for sale, and pleasure. After she died the old landmark was torn down.

by Walter Baynes.

Breton Boxing Club Card To Feature Top Fighters



KELLY STANDARD

The Breton Boxing Club will stage a fight card this Saturday, March 11, which will feature a number of top Alberta amateur boxers. Supplying the opposition will be boys from British Columbia clubs. It is billed as an Alberta-B.C. tournament.

Kelly Standard, Winfield, a member of the Breton Club and this year's Alberta champion in the 85-lb. division is one fighter on the card. Kelly was last year's Western Canadian champion in the 75-lb. class.

The Knight brothers, Jimmy and David, who are also current provincial champions, will also see action. Jimmy is the 65-lb. champion, and so far this year he is undefeated. He was also a provincial winner in 1970 and runner-up in



JIMMY KNIGHT

Western Canada. David meanwhile claims the current Alberta title for 80-lbers.

The card will be held at the Breton Community Hall and gets underway at 8 p.m.

One of the featured visiting fighters is Neil Austin of Langley, B.C. Neil has over 300 fights to his credit, and of this number he has lost only 23. He has twice been national champion.

Dale Anderson, Alberta's Golden Boy, of Rocky Mountain House will also be on the card, as will Jerry Day who calls Breton his home but is currently fighting out of Edmonton. He will be one of the heavyweight boxers.

The Breton Boxing Club has been operating for some six years and presently has a



DAVID KNIGHT

membership of 25 boys. They are from Breton, Winfield, Thorsby and Drayton Valley.

DENNIS BRODERSON

Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Broderson came to Winfield district from Rimbey in 1958. They settled on the south $\frac{1}{2}$ sec. 14 - 46 - 4 - 5. At ~~that~~ time land was more economical in this area than in Rimbey and they liked this country. Dennis Broderson works on pipelines besides his farming operation and runs range cattle.

In 1968 a test oil well was drilled on the farm but was sealed up apparently a non-producer. The Broderson family consists of Larry, a backhoe operator, Holly - married with one boy and living in Calgary, Eldon and Wade - both welders, Debra, Layna, Bernie, Angie in Winfield school, Billy & Jilayne at home.

ARON BROWN

Aron and I came to Winfield from the bald prairies of Saskatchewan. The first sight of Winfield was a real treat to us, as we both love trees and the interesting landscape. To this day we love to look out of our kitchen window and see the sky-line of spruce and poplar and every dry spring dread the threat of fires that may wipe it out.

We arrived here in November of 1938. I was cold! We expected to settle on a homestead that was promised us would be available on our arrival, but the party changed his mind - so there we were - no place to go. We had Jack and Ruth who were three years and two years - a puppy, three dollars, and very few belongings.

When a person is young, healthy and happy, nothing seems impossible. We were thrilled to be on our own and had lots of faith in our fellow-men. Aron knew one of the Shamp boys who lived a few miles out of Winfield - so we spent our first night with the Shamp family.

Aron knew we had to find work right away so first thing in the morning he went into Winfield and found out that every morning there were jobs to be had in the sawmills. John Harmacy's truck moved us back to Winfield to a little shack near what is now the old town hall.

We didn't live there very long - moved into the railroad shack across from the Anglican church. Aron found work at one of Carroll's sawmills. The children and I were alone all that cold winter - and it was the coldest winter that we can remember.

We would have been very lonely the first few months if it hadn't been for Altha and Orton Hanna. They had us for supper quite often and it was the place where we went to warm up before starting up the hill to our little home after our daily shopping. Jessie Craig came up quite often and so did Mrs. Lang, Mrs. Guy and Mrs. Carroll.

Mrs. Sabin introduced us to all the bridge players in town. She always asked everybody and it gave us a chance to get to know the town people and also to learn how to play bridge.

And so the first winter passed. Spring came with a bang that year and all the bush work stopped in March. Meanwhile, Aron bought half an acre of land (on time) from Mr. Joiner and by piling wood and burning it during the night to get the frost out was able to scrape away a bit of earth for our cellar on which our present home stands.

Aron started our home right away and that spring we moved in. It was only a shell - two rooms but now we had a home, a family, a job and our way of life began to take shape.

After working for Carrolls for five years, Aron decided to go on his own by buying a lumber truck and hauling lumber first for Carrolls, then for Etter-McDougalls. This he did until the lumber was gone out of this country.

Elaine was born in 1941 in Wetaskiwin hospital. We shall never forget the night Aron brought us home. It was in September and raining. We left Wetaskiwin in a borrowed car at six o'clock at night and arrived home at three o'clock in the morning. My brother pushed the car most of the way it seemed, and once in a while they had to cut trees to get the car out of mud holes. You can imagine how relieved I was to get home safe and sound with my precious bundle.

My brother, Bernard Loewen, was with us a few winters. He piled lumber for Etter-McDougalls. He is married and lives in Vancouver. My mother, Mrs. Loewen, has been with us until last year. Last winter a home for senior citizens was built in Langham, her home town, staffed with people she has known for years - so she decided to become a resident.

After the lumber was gone out of this country, we felt lost, as it had been our means of making a living. For a while we thought we would have to move away, but an opportunity

arose for Aron where he could use his trucking experience. Mr. E. Hunter had his Transport for sale that year and Aron bought it. We inherited Mr. Hilding Swanson as a helper and were glad of his experience as he knew the city of Edmonton so well by then, as that's where most of our freight came from.

Because of the oil activities in and around Buck Lake and Alder Flats, our business grew. Also Aron bought out Rimbey Transport. We were never short of good drivers which we had in Nelson Swanson, Billy Russell, Delbert Batke, Larry Jones, Ken Larsen, Tony Marsolias and Wayne Hedland. All local men.

We had the Transport for fifteen years. They were busy, good years. They made it possible to give Jack, Ruth and Elaine the education and training they wanted and to meet a great many people.

It was with mixed feelings that we sold our Transport-but Aron thought he's like to be free. He is now keeping bees and loving it. Summers are very busy. But the winters leave Aron enough time to do what he wishes - which turns out to be getting to know our grandchildren.

As we look back at the years past we realize we have a great deal to be thankful for - health, friendly neighbors. Most of all our children who took advantage of every opportunity offered them in the way of education, work and amusement. They have wonderful memories of Winfield in their friends also in the Anglican Church where they were baptized and confirmed. We all shall be forever grateful to Rev. Jack Gibbons for his help and inspiring us to always look on the good side of life.

They say as you get older you begin to live with your memories more and more. We think we'd like to live out our days in this old house where most of the memories were made.

by Lydia Brown.

BILLY BROWN

Drought and grasshoppers at Rumsey was the reason we left. Bill Ives, an acquaintance from Kelowna, B.C., told my husband of all the rain they had in Buck Lake area and as he had already filed on a homestead there Billy returned with him to investigate. Upon returning

.I remember him saying "Well we'll never need to worry about starving there, as there is fish in the lake besides lots of moose and deer in the bush. The horses will have lots of feed as there is grass growing on the lake shore as high as the horses backs".

It was finally decided that we would go, so in the fall of 1922, we moved to Buck Lake, a long and tiresome journey over rough and rutted roads. Travelling with us were my sister and her husband (Mr. & Mrs. Denny Collins), My brother Rolly Rice and family. However my sister did not remain here. My brother did for a few years but later returned to Rumsey.

The first week we camped on the Taylor place which later became Wallbridges and now belongs to Louie Kiss. From there we moved to Calhouns place, where there was only one room and a little attic. We managed although there were eight of us which included my husband, myself, our oldest son Henry, who still

lives in the Buck Lake district, our oldest daughter Elsie (now deceased), Elva still living in the district, Hattie now living in Clarkston, Washington. Minnie now in Los Angeles, California, and Iris also living in the district. Our son Bob was not at home at the time, he was working in B.C. The land then owned by Mr. Calhoun now belongs to Ken Adams. We lived there until we could build on our own homestead which was the N. E. $\frac{1}{4}$ - 18 - 46 - 5 - 5.

The first winter was a hard one for us because we lost about ten head of cattle as the grass on the Lake shore was not like the prairie wool we were used to. Our horses headed back across country for Rumsey and all but one ended up in the pound operated by Mr. Bagley in the Lacombe district. The other one made it back to Rumsey.



W. Brown with Henry & Bob,
standing on the load of logs which were
hauled for the house on the homestead.



There were quite a few homesteaders here when we came, some of the ones I can recall are Mr. and Mrs. DeWitt & Ryland. The Haggkvist family, Mr. & Mrs. Ned McKay and family, Bowins, Heighingtons, Pochas, both Gus & Pete Bjurs, Siegels, Larson, C. Parkers, Ellsworths, Mr. Betlamini (he wasn't married then), Krystas, Matouseks, These people were all helpful and friendly. We enjoyed visiting more in those days I think as there wasn't much other entertainment.

Told by Mrs. W.R. Brown in her eighty-fifth year, it was almost impossible for her to remember.

HENRY BROWN

The first year we were married we lived in a shack on Joe Moonen's close to our homestead. We already had a small house, moved there from across the lake. We lived on the east side on the NW 18 - 46 - 6 - W5.

The next summer we moved into our own house, and in 29, built a kitchen on and I thought it was just wonderful!

On October 7th, 1929 our first son was born. We named him Norman Alvie. He weighed 9 pounds at birth. We were very happy, our lives seemed to be complete.

On January 27th, 1931, we had another son we named Melvin Richard. He weighed 9½ pounds. Our happiness with him was short lived. Melvin passed away in the Lloydminster Hospital, on Sept. 13th, 1933, of Cholera. Henry and I had been to Saskatoon to look at a flour mill, which we thought we might buy and bring to Buck Lake. On the way back both boys got sick. We put them both in hospital where Melvin died 8 days later. Norman was in the hospital for a month and it was another month after we brought him home before he could walk.

On Oct. 6th, 1935, a baby girl was born to us. She weighed 10 pounds. We seemed to forget the loss of Melvin and were happy again with Norman and little Jean.

Henry took logging contracts, and I cooked for the loggers. He bought a truck and hauled lumber into Winfield.

In 1937 Henry built a "Pole Railway" about 1 mile long. Put a flat bed on the track loaded it with logs and pulled it with horses to the Lake, where the logs were dumped, and Carroll Bros. boomed them across the lake to the sawmill. Henry and I skidded the logs that were hauled to the lake on this, so called Railway.

In 1939 we bought the NE¼ of 2 = 46 - 5 - 5. In 1940 we built a modern home and moved in that fall. The winter of 1940 Henry got a job as foreman for Etter and McDougall Lumber Co. and finally he was made Superintendent of the two mills (Camp 9 and Camp 6) out close to the Saskatchewan River. He held this position till the timber played out ten years later. All this time every thing seemed to run smoothly, but on January 26th, 1964, death came again, and took our only daughter. She left two children, a girl Dianne, and a boy Lee.

Now our years are just about behind us. We are still ranching in partnership, with our only son Norman, his wife Verna, and three children, Lorraine, Bobby and Cathy, in fact have been for the past ten years.

Henry and Lena Brown's Wedding

We were married in the good old days, April the 11th, 1925 at Lacombe, Alberta at the ministers home by the Rev. Robert B. Layton.

We left Buck Lake, by horses and wagon. Drove to Hoadley then took the train to Bentley, where Lena's brother-in-law, Bill Doole, met us with his team and wagon, took us to their place and on into Lacombe the next day. My sister Josie, and her husband Billy Doole were the only ones at our wedding. It was on a Saturday. Monday we started for home at Buck Lake. Billy Doole again took us to Bentley with his team and wagon. Then by train to Hoadley. However, when we got to the railroad bridge across the Blindman river this side of Rimbey there was an ice jam, and the engineer would not take us across, so they sent for hand cars to take us to Hoadley. Got our team and wagon and started for Buck Lake.

That little creek this side of Hoadley, was a raging little river. When we got to the middle of it the horses were swimming and could not pull the wagon out. However Henry, was smart even at that time, because he had tied the wagon box down to the running gear. The whole thing swung around and came close enough to the bank, that we were able to get out and not go down stream.

Henry took off some of his clothes, got back into the stream pulled the double tree pin

and got the horses out, then we went to a sawmill near, Some people by the name of Johnson, got dried off and away again.

The next stop was the home of Charlie and Isabel Wetheral. Then on home where we arrived alive and happy.

We had a wedding dinner and dance in the old log hall on Herman Siegel's place, open to all that cared to attend.

But now its time to close this, GOD BLESS every one that reads the book, that will be on sale in the near future.

by Henry & Lena Brown

BILLY BRYSON

Billy came with the Gilbert Nelson family from Gull Lake area to the Pendryl district in 1925.

He filed on SW $\frac{1}{4}$ 7 - 46 - 4 - 5, and made this his home until he became ill and left the district.

He passed away in the 1940's.

LEON BRZUS

I started my life in Poland where I was born. In 1927 I married Janina Mazur, who as a small child lived for some time in Brazil, South America. My wife Janina and baby daughter, Lucy and I came to Canada in 1930. Times were tough in Poland and having heard about the wonderful country, Canada, we decided to immigrate there. We came by ship and landed in Halifax June 16, 1930. We had a friend, Mike Swistowski who lived at Minnehik, Alberta and this was our destination. From Halifax we travelled by train and as we went through Lacombe and on to Rimbey we saw that the country around looked pretty good and expected Minnehik to be much the same. As we came closer to Winfield the bush got heavier and heavier, however we expected to get through the bush and come into open country again. When we came to Winfield my wife thought it was the worst place she had ever seen and wanted to go back. We stayed overnight in Winfield and the next day we went with the mail carrier, Mr. Harry Ives, who hauled the mail with a team of horses and wagon. He took us to Minnehik and to his home where they treated us to supper. Later that same evening he took us to the home of Mike Swistowski, with whom we lived for the first nine months. We never did get through the bush.

We planned to stay a short time and move to a city but times were bad and not many jobs available so I took up a homestead. NW 32 - 45 - 6 - 5 about the middle of July 1930, just north west of Swistowski's.

Our first home was just a small cabin built out of logs during the winter of 1930-31, it had two rooms. That first winter was a very mild one with almost no snow and we were able to get moss from a swamp nearby to fill in the cracks between the logs of the house with no difficulty. We moved into our new



Mr. & Mrs. Leon
Brzus - 1931
Taken in front of their cabin.

home in the spring of 1931.

Times were tough during the depression years of the 1930's and didn't improve till about 1941. I worked in the lumber mill, for Art Burrows from 1931 when I got twenty six dollars a month and room and board. About 1934 I worked in McDougalls sawmill for twelve dollars forty cents a month take home pay. I then worked for Art Burrows, when Art moved his mill up to the Peace River, Alberta area in 1944, I went there to work for him. I started in the sawmills getting dry fire wood for the boiler, then as blacksmith (this was my trade in

Poland) I also worked as planer, millwright, sawyer and foreman. Burrows sold his mill to the Swanson Lumber Co. in 1952, who later sold the mill to Art Propp from Stony Plain. I stayed on until 1956, then stayed home and worked on the farm. At the time I finished working in the sawmill I was earning twenty one dollars a day, quite a difference from \$12.40 a month.

Our first harvest in 1931, three acres of wheat and oats was completely hailed out, the second harvest in 1932 was more interesting, 1 acre of wheat which I cut with a scythe. My wife bundled it by hand and carried it all near the house and made into a small stack. Later my wife threshed it into a sack with a broken axe handle. The only place we had to store this grain was the attic of the house. The ceiling in the house was made of shiplap lumber which was green and as it dried and warped, the grain upstairs slowly sifted down into the house.

The first ten years all of our hay was cut and raked by hand, a big job even for a few cattle. All the land was also cleared by hand in those first years. I got my first team of

horses in 1939, making things a little easier. In 1943 I bought another quarter of land, NE 32-45-6-5 from Allan Siegel and bought a tractor and a threshing machine in 1945. In 1946, I bought Olaf Sheflo's quarter NW 33-45-6-5 onto which we moved soon after, and on which we still live. In 1950 I bought my first truck so at last had some transportation. When we first lived in the district, there were no fences dividing neighboring homesteads. Cattle ran at large we could hear cowbells in all directions and wondered what they were at first. The homesteader could distinguish their own cow's bell from that of their neighbor.

Our son Rudolph was born in 1931, and both children went to Buck Lake School, which was then situated north of us on the Coleman Kiss place, now owned by Lawrence Shenks. There was no road, only a trail through heavy timber and swamp, which was muddy most of the summer and heavy with snow in winter. Lucy went to high school in Edmonton as there wasn't one close by.

Rudy stayed home on the farm and worked on oil drilling rigs for some years until the Delhi Gas Plant opened up in 1965 where he has worked up to the present time. Rudy married Vera Eastwood from Ponoka. They have four children, Cathy, Karen, Wayne and Douglas. Lucy married Martin Betlamini, in 1949 and they have two children, Nita and Howard, they live on a farm at Pendryl.

We sold our farm to Rudy in 1968 and have now retired but continue to live on the farm.

written in 1971.

BUCK LAKE BAPTIST CHURCH

It was in 1933 that the Baptist work began in Buck Lake when missionary Ole Larsen held a revival meeting in the old Buck Lake Hall on Herman Diegels' place. The attendance was very good and before he left, a Sunday School was started with Mrs. Mayme Gordon as instructor. Mrs. Gordon loved teaching the young but found it difficult without any teaching aids as this was depression time and there was no money for supplies. Miss Amy Conroy and Mr. Strinnholm gave her much help and encouragement and a Church at New Norway sent a few New Testaments.

In June 1934 Ole Larsen and Gust Anderson again held a revival at Buck Lake, after which Mr. Anderson stayed on as a regular minister for about six months. In 1935 a student from the Alberta Baptist Bible Academy in Wetaskiwin came as a minister, but he too only stayed a short time. Services were sometimes conducted by the Covenant Mission Church from Alder Flats, sometimes by Gospel Teams and students from the Bible School. All these ministers were welcomed and housed by the Gordons. When two girls were sent out the Gordons felt their house too small and a small log house was erected by neighbors to house the young

women. Harry Bently, also a student of the Bible School borrowed the money from the Conference to purchase the old Beatty Place which with everyones help was made into a place for Sunday School and Services.

Rev. Ferguson came to Buck Lake and was instrumental in getting the Baptist Church from Poplar Valley and set up on a cement foundation at Buck Lake. There followed Rev. Friesen, Rev. Samuelson, Rev. Harrison and finally Rev. Johnson who due to ill health left in 1971.

BUCK LAKE STAMPEDE

Purchase of land for public playgrounds at Buck Lake was started in 1928. The Buck Lake Community Society was formed in 1929. Mr. Ed Irwin was the secretary. The first stampede was held in the summer of 1931. The stampede corrals were situated on the site where Coral Cabins now stand. At the beginning only cattle were rode, these belonged to the local settlers, other entertainment included ballgames, various foot races for children and for adults, greased pig races, greased pole climbing. The winners received a small prize usually consisting of a small amount of money. Everyone brought a picnic lunch and there was a concession booth where ice cream, pop, bananas and other goodies were sold, and what a treat this was, especially to the children as this was about the only time many of them had a chance to taste these special treats.

In 1934 the first bucking horses were used, these belonged to Gene Seely. In 1940 a Recreation lease was taken and held in trust by the Dept. of Municipal Affairs.

A second set of corrals was built in the early 1940's in approximately the same location that the present corrals are.

In 1946 this lease was surveyed by the government and was to be divided into lots and sold. This lease was fought over until 1949. With the help of the land inspector, Mr. J.A.R. Powell and Mr. Wingblade it was finally turned over to the Buck Lake Community Society.

In 1950 a race track was added to the grounds making it possible to have horse races. Other events held were bareback riding, saddle bronc riding, calf roping, wild cow milking, steer riding, later cart racing and chuckwagon racing were introduced.

The grounds were rebuilt and enlarged in 1951 with lumber donated by Etter-McDougall Ltd. and Carroll Bros. lumber camps. These corrals were used until 1967 when they were again completely re-built and enlarged as a centennial project. A centennial grant was available in 1967 and after a lengthy debate and many trips to county council about where this money should go it was finally decided by the county council to divide the money equally between Alder Flats and Buck Lake. This money and the help of the people of the district was used to build the present Stampede Grounds and facilities.

The Buck Lake Stampede joined the Foothills Cowboy Association in 1962 to eliminate the problem of getting bucking horses, they are now supplied by the F.C.A. In 1971 bull riding and steer wrestling were added to the events. Attendance has increased over the last 22 years from 300 to 3,000. The Buck Lake Stampede is the biggest annual event in this area held early in July. Over the years it has become well known throughout the province and has been very successful.

Some of the board members through the years have been - Fred Bjur, George Berg, George Duncan, John Engblom, Herman Siegel, Gilbert Siegel, Roy Berg, Phil Wennerstrom, Henry Scherlie, Ed Kluczny, Martin Betlamini, Art Cartier, Frank Marshall, Gaines Linton, Walter Engblom and Ray Tompkins who has been president for many years. Others that have served on the board in more recent years include Doug Patten, Mel Dawson, Andy Anderson, Jesse Huseby, Al Anderson, Eric and Bob Wennerstrom, Donnie and Herman Siegel Jr., Mrs. Helen Tompkins also served on the board for many years and was awarded a prize during the centennial year for her many years of good service. The above list of people may not be complete nor is it in the order in which they served, for which please accept our apologies.



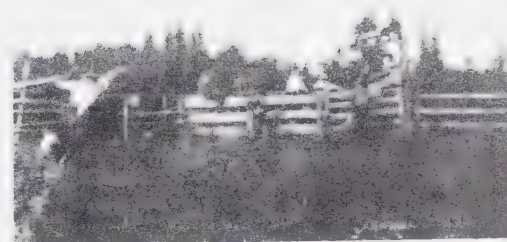
Cowboy in Action



Float in Parade



First Cart Race - 1949
Buck Lake - Run on ball diamond,
Ray Tompkins



Steer Riding



Float in Parade



Wild Cow
Milking

BUCK MOUNTAIN PROVINCIAL GRAZING RESERVE

Following a request by the County of Wetaskiwin to develop a Provincial Grazing Reserve in the western part of the County, an area was selected in Twp. 7, Rges. 5 & 6, W5th, encompassing a block of 17, 142 acres 10 miles wide and 3 miles long, excepting 2 3/4 sections in the northeast corner.

This area had at one time been covered with spruce and pine, but logging and repeated fires had left only small scattered patches of the original forest. When the pasture development started, the cover consisted of light poplar bush. Forage was supplied by native grasses and forbs.

Topographically, the proposed pasture varied from the flat lowlands west of Buck Creek to the hilly region on the east end. Buck Lake cuts into the southwest side of the Reserve, Buck Creek runs northward through it, along with several other creeks and drainages that serve as natural water supplies for livestock.

By 1964, with the completion of 50 miles of fence (some of it done under very adverse conditions) and a corral system, and with the establishment of a headquarters site, the Reserve was opened with Ross R. McLeod as the manager. For the first two years, Mr. McLeod and his family lived in their house trailer and hauled drinking water from Walter Oakes' spring. By 1966, a modern house and a bull shed had been built and range improvement projects started. In 1969 Mr. McLeod resigned, and Mr. Gordon Florence took over the duties of Reserve Manager.

At the beginning of the 1970 grazing season, 2,256 acres had been cleared, broken and seeded to a tame pasture mix of creeping red fescue, smooth brome, climax timothy and alsike clover. Clearing had been completed on an additional 2,370 acres, of which 1,070 acres was broken and seeded to pasture during 1970. For the first time on a Provincial Grazing Reserve, the nonbloating legume "Birdsfoot trefoil" is being seeded in 1971 with the pasture mix.

In 1963 part of the Buck Mountain Grazing Reserve was used under Head Tax Grazing Permit. Beginning with its official opening in 1964, utilization of the Reserve has been recorded as follows:

(1)

1964 - 2,095 Animal Unit Months

1965 - 3,092

1966 - 3,336

1967 - 4,362

1968 - 3,334

1969 - 4,757

(3)

1970 - 4,883

According to a study carried out from 1965 to 1967 by S. G. Klumph, it was found that during the 4½ month grazing season on native forage, steers gained an average of 207 pounds, heifers 191 pounds and calves 243 pounds, for average daily gains of 1.80, 1.58 and 2.01 pounds respectively.

Footnotes

1. Animal Unit Month - the amount of feed or forage required by any animal unit for one month. An animal unit is considered to be a cow with or without a calf, or a steer over one year old. A yearling is a bovine animal born during the previous year and for calculation purposes is considered as 3/4 of an animal unit.
2. The drop in the 1968 utilization was due to the forest fire which burned over 13 000 acres of the reserve in late spring.
3. The 1970 utilization is an estimated figure which cannot be confirmed until the end of the grazing season.

Cattle grazed on the Reserve are trucked in by the 40 to 50 owners from as far away as Camrose. Local residents are given first consideration if they apply for allotments.

Development of the Buck Mountain Grazing Reserve was carried out under the auspices of the Chairman of the Land Utilization Committee of the Department of Agriculture until April 1, 1967, at which time it was turned over to the Lands Division of the Department of Lands and Forests, which administered the operational phase. Supervisor of Grazing Reserves S. G. Klumph, Field Supervisor W. J. Bush and Reserve Manager Gordon Florence, working with an Advisory Committee of 6 patrons headed by Norman Lofgren handle the administrative problems of the Reserve.

Under a carefully planned development program assisted financially by the Federal Government, approximately 60% of the Reserve will ultimately be developed into seeded pasture that will carry 2,000 to 3,000 head of cattle for 5 months during the summer. Charges for grazing were set for 1970 at \$3.00 per animal unit month, which includes salt, mineral supplement and the services of the Reserve Manager in looking after the cattle. Full development of the Reserve is not expected to be completed until 1975. Viewed from Buck Mountain,

the Reserve offers a picture of cattle grazing placidly on the rich green pastures contrasted with the untouched bushland that will be protected to grow into segments of forest, with Buck Lake shimmering in the distance, and beyond that the hazy outline of the Rocky Mountains.

OSCAR BUCHER

Oscar Bucher a single young man, arrived in the Breton district in October of 1928. He located land on the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ 34 - 47 - 3 - W5. Oscar Bucher came from Switzerland in 1927, and worked for one year at Altario, Alberta on a farm.



Oscar Bucher's Home and Hen House - 1929

The challenge of trying to make a farm out of 160 acres of trees and stumps was the reason for coming to this land. He travelled by train to Breton, and then went on foot to his homestead. The first home was a frame construction lumber shack 14 x 18. The first Post Office was at Breton and the Postmaster was Mr. and Mrs. Ramsey. The first school was at Wenham and at Fern Creek. Herb Smith owned the grocery store at Breton.

Some of the early neighbors I had were W. Baynes and family; Mr. Snell Sr; Charlie Snell and family; Jack Bowman, the fireranger and Gust Deisting and his family.

The farming conditions were often very poor; with far too much rain; and then the hot sun would bake the land.

There was a terrible trail to Breton, even in dry weather.

Believe it or not - A stranger not familiar with our conditions came floundering down the road, reaching that bad spot he noticed a hat slowly moving on top of the water. He grabbed a stick and lifted the hat up and to his surprise there was a head under it. When offering to help him get out of the mud-hole the head answered - No I'm alright, I'm on horse-back!

There was little money then but lots of friends and neighbors, all willing to help each other when need arose.

Now, lots of money, good roads and cars to take you miles away from home to meet strangers - and not even knowing your next door neighbor.

BUNKER CEMETERY

The Bunker Cemetery is located on the NW corner of SW 22 - 46 - 3 - W5. This land was donated by Mr. Bunker, a homesteader, who also was buried there.

The Bunkers also had the Knob Hill Store and Post Office in 1916.

Mrs. Bunker operated a stopping place south of Knob Hill.



Mrs. Bunker
with Hans Seline.

A.C. BUNNEY

Arthur Cummings Bunney and his family homestead was on N. W. 22 - 46 - 2 - W5. They came from Cainsville, Missouri, U.S.A. in 1903. A.C. Bunney was a man with itchy feet and he moved around Illinois, Iowa, Missouri, twice across the prairie to California in the

Gold Rush Days. He earned his living teaching, farming, storekeeping, freighting - California, before joining the land rush to Canada as part of the move to "claim certain parts of what is now Canada" as U.S. territory. A.C. had operated a store at Cainsville immediately before leaving there.

He was born June 17, 1852 in Indiana: Sarah Ann Seymore was born December 7, 1861, in Debra City, Missouri. They were married at Akron, Harrison County, Missouri, U.S.A., on June 16, 1878. All five children were born in the U.S. Ilo and Jasper at Poison Switch, Iowa. Ivo, Benjamin and Madge at Garden Grove.

On their trek from Wetaskiwin out to the homestead going was so tough in the early spring that the trail led across the south end of Pigeon Lake as far as they could go, then at Battle Lake they also took to the ice to the edge of the homestead. However spring had already had its effect on the ice and Madge recalled the terror in her young heart as one wheel of the wagon broke through the ice and everyone was quickly evacuated from the load and scrambled to safety. They were also able to save their possessions as "luck would have it" as the water wasn't too deep at that point, they left the ice at Kinsmen. Ivo had taken up homesteading at Vegreville so he was not with them at this time. Mrs. Kinsmen was a nurse.

The Bunneys operated a stopping house at their homestead for many years and Sarah's reputation as a wonderful cook soon got around. Everyone was made welcome in those days and the Bunneys always 'reached out' to people, helping them in any way they could. A.C. acted as a guide to others seeking homesteads and at one time was also Fire Ranger for a large area west to Edson. They also raised vegetables, meat, made butter as well for the various camps in the area - Rickers, Edwards (father of Ivy, Icy, Emma) in Norbuck area, Frank Papineau and Ward Snell near Battle Lake.

Ben and Madge both attended school at Cree Valley and later in Wetaskiwin when A.C. moved the family there. They returned to the homestead often after that. Ben attended Camrose Normal School, then taught in several schools before he enlisted in the First World War from which he never returned. Madge taught briefly by permit in the area before she married Bernard (Bill) Nowell - second son of Mr. and Mrs. J.P. Nowell who owned Yeoford Store. Bill and Madge lived in the nurse's cottage and Bill carried the mail from Wetaskiwin to Yeoford for some time then they moved to Wetaskiwin, finally moving to Edmonton going into the radio business. They have two girls - Marie who married Ken Locke and they have four boys. Bernie who married Betty Henkle in 1971, Dennis, Cal and Al. Margaret never married and they all live in Edmonton.

Ilo married T. L. (Siss) Nowell and they lived on their homestead at Yeoford. Kathy was their only child. She married William Elliott and they live on her parents homestead. They have two boys Donald and Alan still home and their oldest, a girl Eva married to Elmer Thebeau and they make their home at Hoadley with their four boys - Gary, Billy, Larry and Glen.

Jasper married Alice McLaughlin and they lived on a homestead at Wenham Valley. They had Wallace (McLaughlin) married to Maude Skoglund, Alberta wed Ken Elliott and live at Blackie, Janice wed Bill Fredericks and live at Killam, Ruth wed George Stead and lives at Black Diamond, Carrie wed Bob Jackson and lives at Blackie, Ivy never married and lives with her mother in Wetaskiwin, Lue married Nellie Thrasher living now in Winfield, Art married Elsie Jans and are living at Forestburg.

Ivo married Naomi Pearl Parsons Eastman and made their home in the area as well.



Their children were James (Eastman) unmarried, Mae wed Joseph Astle, Sarah wed Karst Pluim, William wed Betty Beath, Pearl wed Don Roberts, Florence wed Harold Bellamy, Betty wed George Funderak, Harold died in infancy.

A. C. was a registered member of the Canadian Aberdeen Angus Association which was organized and incorporated in 1906. He specialized in Purebred Angus and Purebred Shorthorn Cattle. Two of his registered Angus bulls that were born property of A. C. Bunney, were sold to Roy Ballhorn to improve his herd. They were Lakeside Chieftain - black-born August 21, 1918; Lakeside Prince Ed -black-born March 30, 1918. A. C. took great pride in his cattle.

Mrs. A. C. Bunney was ready to try anything and one day a coyote came into the yard trying to steal one of her chickens. The old "muzzle loaded" gun was always handy so she decided to try it herself as the men folks weren't handy, what she didn't know was that instead of the usual birdshot load it had been loaded with buckshot and when she fired at the coyote it flattened her backwards to the ground and the old brave coyote got away unharmed. One incident never forgotten.

A brother of Sarah Bunney - Nathaniel Seymour known as "Tanny" homesteaded the N. E. 25 - 46 - 3 - W5 but in his early years died from a brain tumor and is buried at Ponoka.

A. C. and Sarah are both buried in Wetaskiwin. He passed away August 28, 1936. She followed on March 4, 1941. Ilo David was born March 29, 1879 - passed away August 21, 1940. Ivo William born November 4, 1880 passed away November 2, 1964. Jasper Edward born August 12, 1882 passed away April 10, 1946. Benjamin born July 21, 1895 lost his life in action in World War One September 27, 1918. Madge born August 1, 1899 passed away February 6, 1970.

IVO BUNNEY

Ivo William Bunney was born in Missouri, U.S.A. on November 4, 1880 and passed away on November 2, 1964 in Wetaskiwin where he is also buried. Naomi Pearl Parsons Eastman Bunney was born on January 26, 1902 in Los Angeles, California and passed away on September 15, 1963 and is also buried in Wetaskiwin.

Ivo came to Canada originally working on the railroad. In 1903 he homesteaded in the Vegreville district 18 miles south, but in two years gave it up because there was no timber for building with. In 1905 he decided to join his parents, the A. C. Bunneys, here at their new homestead along the north east shore of Battle Lake. They had all left Cainsville, Missouri to answer their pioneering call and had joined the land rush to Canada as part of the move to claim certain parts of what is now Canada as U.S. territory. Along with his parents there were his three brothers Ilo, Jasper, Benjamin and only sister Madge. They operated a stopping house and guided others seeking homesteads, raised vegetables, meat etc, for the lumber camps in the area and west. In 1905 he also filed on a homestead SE 22 - 46 - 2 - W5 and worked proving it up, as well as helping his father and he too worked in various mills in the area in the early years. He also worked on building projects including the old King Alexander school in Wetaskiwin, George Bayless and the John West homes.

Naomi Parsons was raised in Los Angeles with her sister Ruth and brother Frank, one other brother disappeared when a small child, and was never heard from again. In 1917 she married Alvin Eastman and they came back to Battle Lake to live. She was widowed, a bride of only a few months. On March 30, 1918 Ivo and Naomi were married and they lived on the A. C. Bunney farm at Battle Lake. In 1925 they moved to the Jensen place which was paid for with horses. Later they moved to the newly aquired land of Pete Nesland's across the valley. N. W. 25-46-3-W5. Ivo drove the mail from Yeoford to Minnehik (Buck Lake) until the mail was carried by train to Winfield. Dalton Tipping carried the mail from then on. The mail was carried by team - out one day and back the next. He also hauled freight for the crew when they were putting in the grade for the track through Winfield. He raised cattle after he settled to farming starting out with Angus and after some hard luck with them he started raising purebred shorthorn cattle and continued with them till he retired in the late fifties 1956 or 1957.

One time after he managed to get a new tractor he had the wagon on behind and was taking Naomi to a neighbors for a visit. However, he never looked back to the wagon much in his travels, and after coming down Murfitt hill the wagon came unhooked and there sat Naomi until he went all the way to Elliott's before he realized she and the wagon were missing, and came back for her.

They had a large family: James Alvin Eastman Bunney was born at Eastmans after his fathers death and was adopted by Ivo, he passed away a bachelor in December 1950 and is buried at Knob Hill Cemetery. Theresa Mae was born in Wetaskiwin, she married Joseph Edward.

Astle and they have one son Wayne. Joe was a trucker and drove truck for many years. They homesteaded a farm north-west of Norbuck. Joe passed away in April, 1965. Mae taught school in Breton for several years then went to Lakedell where she still teaches. Sarah Sadie and Ivo William Jr. (Bill) were born at Battle Lake. Sarah married Karst Pluim and they have continued to live on his farm in the Malmo district 17 miles S. E. of Wetaskiwin. They have two children, Marie wed to Gary Delainey, they have one daughter; Corneilious still at home. Bill married Betty Beath and they live on the Milton place farming and he works out to help make ends meet. At the present time taking a Soil & Water course at Olds. They have four children, Clifford wed to Beverly Lemke, formerly from Yeoford, they are making their home at Whitecourt where he is instrument man in an oil plant; Linda also married a local boy - Grant Ambrose who is taking an electronics course and drives truck, they are living in Edmonton. Larry is cooking for a catering company in the Arctic, Robin still is at home. Pearl Doris born while on Jensens quarter wed to Don Roberts and live on Petes home place. Florence, Betty and Harold were born on Pete's. Florence wed Harold Bellamy and live on a farm north west of Norbuck also. They have four children, Warren their only son, Barbara wed to Douglas Primrose and living at Thorsby have two sons Joey and Greg, Judy works in Edmonton, Joan wed Arnold Meyer and they live at Slave Lake with one son Paul. Betty married Don Ragan and they had one son Dale who lives at Red Deer, she is now married to George Funderak who had one daughter Gladys, they had two more girls, Georgina and Helen. They live in Leduc. Harold died in infancy and is buried at Knob Hill in Bunkers Cemetery.

The Bunneys made their home open to anyone in need and helped many over the rough hurdles.



J.P. Nowell family - Mrs. Nowell,
Jack, Theresa, Bill, Mr. Nowell
- 50th Wedding Anniversary -



Mrs. J.P. Nowell and bulldog
belonging to mail courier.



ILO and Theresa Bunney
Kathleen - about 1921 -



Old Nancy usually driven by
T.L. Bunney. Made trip to Seattle
school twice a day - 3 1/2 miles
one way - to take Kathy to school.
From 1923 for several years.

ILO D. BUNNEY

Ilo David Bunney, born March 29th, 1879 in Missouri, took out a homestead SW 36 - 46 - 3 - 5 in 1905 after coming to the Yeoford area with his parents, A.C. Bunney and family. He built a log cabin and a barn soon after coming. These are still in use. In 1915 he married Theresa Lillian Nowell, born February 5th, 1893, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J.P. Nowell who operated Yeoford Store and Post Office. In 1918 they moved into their new lumber home which is still the family home of their only child, Kathleen who was born January 17th, 1918. Ilo was Justice of the Peace (a job no one ever wanted) for some time and court was held in their living room until it was agreed it should be held in the Police Barracks just east of the Yeoford store. Miss Hall, the Government Nurse stayed at their place till she resigned from her post and left for Winnipeg in the fall of 1921.

One of the worst fires in the early 30's burnt Norman Fudges potato patch when the ground was well worked and the potato tops very green.

Ilo passed away August 21st, 1940. Theresa passed away January 21, 1968.

On November 26th, 1942, Kathy married William (Bill) Elliott. They live in the same home of her parents. Bill was born in Glasgow, Scotland on June 6th, 1908. His parents died when he was small and he came to Canada to live with his step-sister when he was twelve years old. At fourteen years, he set out on his own. One of the many jobs he had was with the work gang on the trestle between Entwistle and Evansburg.

From this union three children were born. Eva, born September 29th, 1943, now married to Elmer Thebeau and living at Hoadley with their family of four boys, Gary, Billy, Larry and Glen. Glen was the New Year baby at Rimbey in 1970. Donald born June 2, 1945 and Alan born September 3, 1956 are still at home. Donald does casual labor and Alma is going to Winfield school.

Of the past Kathy says, "We, who were raised here have seen many changes all to the betterment of our country. From trails to graded dirt roads, to gravel roads, to pavement. From small coal oil lamps, Alladdin lamps, gas lamps (Hi test), and finally to electric power which cost each rural member many hours of brushing on line, a large down payment and \$1,175.00 taken over twenty-five years plus interest which amounts to more than the power cost. Then also some kind of heat was needed, first wood, coal, and now most people are using fuel oil or propane. One thing still remains the same, that is the people who are still the friendly, helpful neighbors as were the people before them".

"Bill worked out a lot in order to help make ends meet". We milked cows and shipped cream too. In the early days people lived almost entirely on what they raised. Wood was the only fuel and many hours were spent on this task alone, falling the trees, sawing them into stove lengths and splitting into fuel size pieces. There was much excitement when we got our first Aladdin Lamp, a coal oil lamp with a wick and mantle. If the house warmed up, it would smoke and blacken the mantle. Then it had to be turned down until the mantle cleared.

Potatoes, vegetables, meat, even lard and butter and hay were sold to Railway Construction and Logging Camps. Then in later years many blueberries were picked and sold, being shipped by bus to Wetaskiwin. At the end of the season berries would be four cents a pound.

Kathy went to school in Seattle and took her high school at Wenham Valley riding horse back to both schools.

Mr. Jensen, who owned SE 36 - 46 - 3 - 5, was a talented piano player. As a wee girl Kathy followed in the newly turned furrows as he plowed the field just east of her home. She also went to Sunday School held by the Eliason's, Newton, Edgar and Grace (who wed a Swanson). They knew everyone around.

Bill loves to play cards and is a very good "juggler". Especially likes to juggle fresh eggs or oranges. He served on the Seattle Hall board for several years after it was moved to the NE corner of NE 35 - 46 - 3 - 5, from Knob Hill district where it was originally built on SE 28 - 46 - 3 - 5.

A WORD FROM LUE & NELLIE BUNNEY

When asked to write a short history of our family for your book, I was faced with the overwhelming problem of cramming a half century brimfull of living into a few pages.

Since both of Lue's parents, Jasper & Alice Bunney, homesteaded and farmed in this area, before 1918. They are very old timers and their record appears earlier, in another chapter. My parents, John Edward & Elizabeth Thrasher, homesteaded and farmed five miles from Winfield on to Hoadley back in 1930. My brother, John E. Jr. was one of the early school was one of the early school teachers in Winfield, and the story of their early days is also entered in another chapter.

So, although Lue and I both had parents residing near Winfield and we, ourselves, were acquainted in our early teens, it was not until our schooling was finished and we were both adults working away from home that our paths crossed again. Finally, Lue, while on leave from the air force, and I, a graduate pharmacist at the University Hospital, were married in Knox United Church in Edmonton in March 1944.

In August of the same year, with Lue still away in the air force, I left my post at the U of A Hospital and came to Winfield to work in the drugstore relieving Howard L. Armitage. Fortunately, my parents had retired from the farm and were living in town so I lived with them. On December 1, 1944, we bought the business known as the Winfield Drug Store from Mr. Armitage, who incidently, had started the business ten years previously, but had moved his family to Calgary.

The building in which the Drug Store was located was a little old green frame building on main street which also housed the Post Office and had living quarters at the rear. Mr. Ted Reid, the Postmaster, lived there. We both rented this space from Mr. Sydney Carter who had built the place back in the 1920's and had been the first Postal Officer in Winfield. My first drug clerk, Ida Hamel, came with the business, and was a very helpful lovely young lady. Ida stayed on in the drugstore for about another two years until her marriage to Albin Hustad.

Our hours of work were long in those days- from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. We had a small dark-room where we did our own picture developing and printing, to fill in those long hours. All the business places kept long hours on Saturday nights to accommodate the mill workers who came in from the lumber camps to buy supplies or just to have a brief holiday from camp life. Sometimes the town became quite rowdy.

Mr. Walter Mickelberry had a movie showing every Saturday night in his hall on main street, starting at 8 p.m. He would hire some child (in fact they fought for this job) to ring a hand bell up and down the streets, which signified, as everyone knew, that the show was about to begin. At this point I should mention our source of electricity. Mr. Burt Woodbridge ran the Imperial Garage and he had a small electric plant that served all those buildings that were wired for it, which were not very many. We all had our coal-oil lamps and gas mantle lamps at readiness in case of power failure, which took place at frequent intervals. When the picture

show was in progress and all at once there was complete darkness, nobody panicked. Everyone knew that the trouble was temporary. With a small adjustment or a fill of gas the plant would get going again and it would be "on with the show".

When the movie came to an end, the rows of chairs were quickly moved back to the walls for the dance which was to follow. I remember Aron Brown and me playing for these dances that first winter of 1944 up until Christmas anyway, just the two of us, I on my clarinet and he on his banjo. Both the show and the dance drew a great crowd. The beer parlor closed at 10 every night, in time for those who wanted to attend the dance or those who had forgotten to pick up the groceries. On the way down to the dance hall often, at 10 p.m. we would find the old Hardware, run by Alfred Engler, still open and doing business. Mrs. S. Sabin's store on the corner was still busy putting up the weekly grocery orders and Pete Wald's store was kept open, up the street. He had just bought out Ginthe's Meat Market in March 1944 and he and his wife carried on a very thriving business. The cafes were humming with business. Mr. Joe Walters operated his Chinese Cafe right next to the drugstore and he never closed until everyone who wanted lunch, had been served. His wife, Gay, and his staff of girls came back on duty after the dance and ran around waiting on tables at top speed. This is the way I remember Saturday nights in Winfield that first winter when Lue was away.

The year 1945 was a very eventful year in our family history. In April, our son, Stewart was born; in June, Lue got his discharge from the air force and on the first of July, my dear mother passed away. This brought about a great change in our pattern of living. My father felt the need of a change after mother's long illness, so decided to go for a trip to the west coast. Lue took out a loan from the V. L. A. and bought our home place and three acres of land. He then proceeded to carry out an intensive improvement program. First he fenced the whole parcel of land and strung up a telephone line between the drugstore and the house. Then he raised the house, drilled a well, put in a full sized cement basement to include the well and he built on two new rooms over the well on the south side of the house. Next he wired the house for electricity, and then installed plumbing and a bathroom. What a blessing this was to us, after carrying water from a well and using coal-oil lighting.

Meanwhile the drugstore work went on as usual. People did not readily go to doctors because they were too far off. But we had what were called "district nurses", trained in public nursing and these were stationed at ten or twenty mile intervals out in our under developed country areas. We had one stationed in Winfield, one at Pendryl, one at Alder Flats and Breton. These nurses had offices and received patients during afternoon office hours. If necessary, they visited the sick in their homes and administered medicines and treatment there.

Our first doctor who came to live in Winfield was an elderly lady doctor, Dr. E. M. Johnstone. She was the one who attended my mother a few weeks prior to her death. Having doctored in London, England through the days of the heavy bombing. Dr. Johnstone came to Canada where life would not be so hectic. She soon found the roads and the methods of transportation around Winfield to be beyond her ability to cope with, so retired from practice here after a few months, to live in Edmonton.

On reviewing the prescription files at the drugstore, I find the next doctor to have an office in Winfield was Dr. N. Bradly, a young fellow in practice with Dr. J. C. Andreas in Wetaskiwin. Once or twice a week for almost a year he came out to hold office hours. He left in June, 1947 to work with the Armed Forces overseas.

Then we fell back once more, on the services of our wonderful district nurses. First of all, was Mrs. Helen Sabin, then a Mrs. Fadeef came for a year or so while Mrs. Sabin was transferred to Breton. Then a young English nurse, Miss Doreen Bastable came until the district nurse idea was abandoned by our Department of Health.

In September of 1951, the Rimbey doctors, Dr. Harold Bell and Dr. George Boorman started coming to Winfield, holding office hours every Tuesday afternoon in the Winfield Ladies Community Club house. This wonderful service continued for twelve years. Patients came to see them from Alder Flats, Buck Lake, Berrymoor, Lyndale, Warburg, Breton, Battle Lake and Hoadley. No one was turned away, even if the doctors had to pause for a lunch and carry on into the evening hours.

When Dr. H. Bell left his practice in Rimbey to go into Medical laboratory research work, Dr. R. M. Cable took his place, and took his turn coming to Winfield. Then Dr. Crosby joined the two and several relief doctors came at intervals through the summers. Finally the Dept. of Health decided that it was necessary to have a hospital built in this area to be of service to residents of Alder Flats, Buck Lake, Hoadley, Battle Lake, Winfield, Breton and Warburg. The site of the hospital was debated pro and con. Finally Dr. Donovan Ross, then our Alberta Minister of Health, decided that Breton was the site he wished to have but he ordered a plebiscite vote to decide the question. It was to be at Breton or not at all.

The result of this plebiscite was a definite vote vs. the erection of a hospital at Breton. However, by an order-in-council, our Health Minister decreed that the hospital should be built at Breton and there, it was built in 1963.

During this interval of indecision about the hospital, Dr. Keys arrived in Breton and opened an office there. He came to Winfield to hold office hours. Our Rimbey doctors felt obliged to discontinue their medical offices in Winfield and thus we lost this long time valued medical service.

However, out of the dozen or so doctors who have come and gone from our hospital in Breton, and those presently with us, there have been some very clever dedicated medical men and their services have been welcome by a fair portion of the people.

In the spring of 1946, Mr. Ted Reid became ill and it was necessary for the Postal Head office to appoint a substitute Post Master in Winfield. This position was offered to Lue and he accepted on a temporary basis, with Mr. Reid's assistant, Miss Lucy Johnson carrying on as his assistant Postal Clerk. This arrangement with Lue as Post Master, on one side of the partition and me in the Drug Store on the other side, carried on for a few months until Mr. Keith Johnson returned from overseas to take over as Post Master, permanently in September of 1946. At this time Lue and I had a young lady drug clerk, Myrtle Dewar. Her twin, Mildred Dewar worked briefly for us in our home. These girl's parents, the Cleve Dewars lived about six miles west and south of town and a more happy pair of girls we have yet to meet. I recall when our first daughter, Jean Elizabeth was born in Feb. 1947, bringing her home from the hospital to a very happy household, including the Dewar twins who were at our place looking after little Stewart and his father and my father too, who was with us at this time.

In 1948, Keith Johnson built a new Post Office building on main street and Lue was able to remove the partition from between the old Post Office and the drugstore, thus enlarging our drugstore space. We carried on this business in this drafty old building for another six years, and a busy, happy six years they were too. The Rimbey doctors were coming each Tuesday holding office hours in Winfield and as I have mentioned before patients came for miles around to see them. I remember vividly one Tuesday particularly, January 5, 1954, after a very, busy day in the drugstore and after thirty-one patients had gone through Dr. Bell's hands, he stopped in at the old drugstore and helped me fill the last two prescriptions. Then Lue carried my suitcase out to the doctor's car and I went out and got in and off we drove to Rimbey around 8 p.m. When we arrived at the Rimbey hospital, Dr. Bell advised me to have a bite to eat and he would also have something in a hurry to eat at home and would be right back. To conclude this little story, our second daughter, Victoria Anne was born at 10 p.m. that evening and we two, Vickie and I were ready and able to return to Winfield the following Tuesday with Doctor Boorman, whose turn it was to hold office hours here.

Lue, meanwhile started to haul lumber in the winters from Etter-McDougall's lumber mill 45 miles west, to the planer mill in Winfield. When this lumber company closed down its operations in Winfield, Lue went up to Brule to haul logs and lumber for Dan Haley. I remember him coming home at breakup in March 1956 and putting a cheque for over \$3,000.00 in my hand and saying, "There young-one, now we can start building your new Drugstore."

That spring Lue tore off the living quarters at the rear of the old building, before jacking the drugstore up and pulling it to the back of the lot, business going on as usual. By the end of October 1956, none too soon, we were able to move all the stock from the old wrecked drugstore building into the new one, heated by an automatic propane forced air furnace.

I still have the old drugstore building handy to remind me of some occasional winter day of yore when I scarcely was able to remove my coat or overshoes while serving customers. We have the old building in our yard at home serving as a garage, re-inforced on all sides and top, and a cement floor.

In the last 30 years, our main street in Winfield, has seen four major changes, due to fires. In each fire, the whole building and business was destroyed and it was always a fight to save those other buildings in close proximity. The first fire, 1942, burned a cafe with rooming quarters above, situated between the old corner Hardware run by Alfred Engler and the old machine shop run by Jim Yeman. Two lives were lost, one man we knew only as Pete the Piler, known for the work he did piling lumber, and another lumberjack fellow by the name of Hughie Hastings. To this day, no other building has been erected to replace it.

The second fire burned to the ground, a cafe with living quarters behind, run by Mrs. Humphreys and her son and his wife. This small building originally was our first hotel in Winfield first run by Mr. and Mrs. Groux. I remember when my father first moved, my mother and we three youngest children, Olive, Johnny and I made the trip with all our household goods, by truck, from Edmonton to our homestead five miles from Winfield. We arrived in town here just at dusk and spent the night at Groux's hotel, summer of 1931. At any rate, this building

was situated on part of the lot where our Post Office is now. To go on with the story I remember this fire broke out in the early hours of the morning and was so intense that it was very hard to keep Ben Ward's Barber Shop, next to it, from burning. In fact, they kept pouring water on this little building and it would dry out and catch fire. The town people kept up this bucket brigade until all Ben Ward's household effects were removed and indeed, when I got down town at 2 a.m. already the Drug Store door had been forced open and enthusiastic helpers were carting all our stock, piled in boxes, across the street and depositing it there and coming back with empty boxes for more refills-this under the leadership of the elderly Mr. Ginther. To make matters worse, it was 17 degrees below zero. It soon became evident that the fire would not reach our drugstore as it was burning itself out and had not even destroyed the Barbershop which was between it and our drugstore. So it then became necessary to move all that stock back into our little store building, which we just finished, going as daylight was breaking. What a mess there was to straighten out the next few days. A lot of bottles were broken, some frozen, some of the packages messed up. But none of this was as bad as the loss suffered by the Humphreys who were completely burned out. This fire took place, I believe, the winter of 1947, although I may be a year late in my date.

Next, a fire broke out in the back of the old pool hall building owned by Grandpa Harmony - next door to Mrs. Sabin's General store on the corner. Once again a bucket brigade formed by the townpeople, saved the general store from any harm and managed to put the fire out before all the burning building was gone. The remaining portion has since been cleared away but no other building has replaced it. Since then our Board of Trade acquired a Fire Engine and with all labour donated, built our Fire Hall.

The next fire took place about 1952 or 53 when Ivan Bjur's Esso Garage went up in flames so fast, everything was gone in no time. There wasn't a chance of saving anything in the garage. Mr. and Mrs. August Hengel's home next to it, which was threatened by the sparks flying towards it and the intense heat from the gas soaked premises was evacuated by the townpeople in all good faith to save household goods at least. Mr. I. Bjur soon rebuilt a brand new garage where the old one stood. Other fires which we have personally witnessed in town have destroyed homes of our friends and neighbors, for example, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Doyle's home, formerly owned by the Jack Bystrom family, and Joe Steene's home next to us, previously owned by W. Mickleberry.

Other unhappy events which will remain in our memories are the times, especially the first time in 1946 that robbers broke into our drugstore and took our safe which held all our accounts, money and narcotics. They had previously, the same evening, broken into the C. P. R. tool shed and taken their big heavy battering tools with which they pounded in the bottom of the safe and removed the contents. Three other times we have since been robbed but we have learned our lesson from the first experience and now leave nothing of any great value locked up in the store.

On re-reading this epistle it seems as though nothing but miserable events are memorable of our life in Winfield. But nothing could be further from the truth. The wonderful friends we have made and the great times we have shared will always be our most valued treasures and memories. With a family of three children growing up, no parents are without entertainment and love and excitement and a few worries to boot. Besides their schooling, our three have been involved in the work of the Anglican Church here in Winfield practically all their lives, from the time of their Baptisms to their Confirmations. Lue and I were United Church people before coming to Winfield. But in the absence of a United Church, we became interested in the only other protestant church in Winfield at that time which was St. Georges Anglican Church situated just on the North edge of town. Rev. Mackie, the first Anglican minister to live here, we knew well, before we were married. But those who followed him to live and preach in Winfield for a period of years each have been our very good friends. Mr. Jack Gibbons, Father R. Alcock, Fr. Boyd Dowden, Captain Morris and their families, and others too, had profound influences on our children's lives and our own.

When Stewart and Jean first started to go to Sunday School, Mrs. J. Lang was our Sunday School Supervisor and Jack Gibbons was a student minister only. It was their custom to raise funds for Sunday School supplies by once a year on St. Patrick's Day, putting on a concert in the hall. The children all loved this very much and under the supervision of the Sunday School teachers a very entertaining evening usually resulted. This annual concert continued on after the Langs left Winfield and Mrs. Lydia Brown took over the Sunday School Superintendent's office. All the parents turned out to help with this once a year concert and so indeed did their friends, to make costumes etc., and of course so did the ministers. For fifteen years we never missed a yearly concert and it was our privilege to help train the children for the program. This fun will never be forgotten by anyone in our family. Also Stewart trained as an Alter boy along

with D'arcy Harmacy and others who followed under Fr. Reg. Alcock's guidance, and these boys gave a helping hand to those ministers who came to Winfield. Both Jean and Vickie as they became old enough joined the Anglican Junior Auxiliary and later taught in the Sunday School for a few years. When the A. Y. P. A. was organized (Anglican Young People's Association), all the teenager Anglicans welcomed their friends to this wonderful weekly social. This organization started under Fr. Reg. Alcock's guidance also, but continued for years under Fr. Boyd Dowden and then Fr. Bastedo.

Our Anglican Women's Auxiliary was a very active organization in Winfield also, during all these years, and I was a member. We have an old movie at home which shows a W. A. meeting at our place in 1958. We run through this film occassionally and enjoy seeing the faces of old friends as the camera catches them. Mrs. Florence Smith, Mrs. Mildred Harmacy, Mrs. Minnie Bodenham, Mrs. Tom Mazar, Mrs. Ethel Hunter, Mrs. Marjory Batke, Mrs. Fred Erb, Mrs. Lenore Olson, Mrs. Blanche Johnson, Mrs. Doris Johnson, Mrs. Rose Johnson, Mrs. Nancy Bennett, Mrs. Lydia Brown, Mrs. Edith Mattock, Mrs. Julia Seefried and perhaps others perhaps others were present but do not show clearly enough to be recognized.

All our summers in Winfield have been spent busily. There was always the drugstore business to hold us from any lengthy holiday away from town so we found our enjoyment right close to home. Every 24th of May was Winfield's Sports Day which drew a wonderful crowd. The men practiced Baseball furiously and the ladies organized their Softball team. Both Lue and I played ball and managed to squeeze time, in which to enjoy many games when our two oldest children, Stewie and Jean were small. The men's baseball tournament & ladies softball games on these 24th of May Sports Days were the major attraction. We then practised all of the summer and competed at other towns' Sports Days. If it wasn't ball practice it was berry picking and gardening and canning that I enjoyed. Lue also enjoyed fishing and hunting in the Fall.

In 1953, some active men of the town decided that they should do something about building a Curling Rink in Winfield. Hitherto, the winters were spent working, with a few social evenings of cards, to relieve the long months. Once the idea of the Curling rink got a hold, enthusiasm spread like wild fire. In the early spring of that year, Lue and Percy Russell set out to find a good timber area which could be leased. They located one and then obtained a logging lease from the Government and before spring break-up, with perhaps a dozen men working in the bush, had enough logs hauled into Winfield to saw into lumber for a Curling Rink. This feat was achieved strictly by donation labour and donation of equipment such as cats, trucks, tractors, sawmill, planer mill etc., and donation of money. By the fall of 1953, the Curling Rink had been built by donation labor.

We have a long list of donors and helpers, some who worked for a few days, and some **who worked for a few months and some who used their machinery** in the bush, and for hauling logs and gravel to town. Others helped saw logs into lumber and others helped build the Rink and clubhouse. Ed Hunter paid for the lease of land - a cash donation. For machinery in the bush we have Fred Dohlman's, Jimmy Knight and Harold Hansen's cats, Alfred Rathgaber's power saw. Truckers who hauled trees to town and loads of gravel were Hank Goltz, John Frederickson, Lue Bunney, Frank Ryall, Jim Knight, Alfred Cartier's sawmill powered by Jack Pountney and Lue Bunney's tractors. Those who helped saw, make a lengthy list: Ed Abbott, Aron Brown, Pete Wald, Alfred Engler, Lue Bunney, Lou Hendrigan, Ed Kryger, Fred Erb, Lorne Jones, Alfred Cartier, John Frederickson, Evan Vaughan, Ron Fowler, Nick Wozney, Hughie Bakermans, Bert Abbott, Frank Ryall and Jim Yemen. Lue says perhaps there are others we cannot recall. The actual carpenters make just as long a list or maybe longer. We had Nick Wozney, Dick DeLong, Jack Brown, Jim Yemen, Keith Johnson, Aron Brown, Lue Bunney, John Olson, Tom Mazar, Walden Smith and others. Mr. Walter Carroll who owned the planer mill donated the machinery if we would pay the planer man and crew. Some of this crew donated their time. Cash donations came from those who could not get away from work to help. These were Ed Hunter, Arnold Homan, Gordon Beatty, Louie Sorensen and others. Jim Knight's cat smoothed off the land sight where the building was to stand. The truckers hauled gravel from Springdale.

We then organized a company. Money for necessary expenses such as land, cement, doors, windows, nails etc. was raised by selling shares at \$5 per share. In the winter of 1953-54 curling started in Winfield with 22 rinks playing in the Round Robin. Some of the curlers bought their own rock to relieve the strain for money. The shares are still owned by those who invested. No dividend has ever been paid to the share holders. The only profit they received was the satisfaction of having a good building for a club house and good curling and skating rink. This has been a great source of enjoyment to young and old for 19 years to date. There is a proposition afoot this March 1972 to have the rinks and building moved to a new

location.

The upstairs club room was given over for use to the Winfield Community Library, free of charge. Board of Trade meetings and Bingos and other Social Functions also made use of it without charge. I remember two wedding receptions held there when Sylvia, a daughter of Harold and Eleanor Hansen was married and Vivian, daughter of Frank and Belle Ryall. The Legion held their November 11th Banquets there also, catered to by our Anglican W.A.

Although our Curling and Skating rinks are still a great source of enjoyment to our curlers and Young Hockey players where they now stand, we are contemplating, even making arrangements to tear down and move both of them up to the new recreation grounds by the new recreation hall, which is almost completed. By Christmas of this year 1972, we should see a brand new Recreation centre in Winfield-East of the school location and a brand new addition to our Big High School, also.

In February 1967, Lue suffered a serious heart attack due to coronary occlusion and was hospitalized for 10 weeks. During that time I was afflicted with a bad nervous disorder which brought on a paralysing effect to my left leg and later spread to the other leg and then to my hands. Handicapped by this break in health we have not been as active as formerly, but seem to have regained some measure of health to stay interested and give a hand in goings on of our town. Lue had a building erected next to the Drugstore building on main street, the summer of 1967. Half of it holds his coin-operated Laundromat and the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce rents the other part of the building. Thus we also have bank services in Winfield.

Through the 28 years of our married life, in Winfield, we have always operated the Winfield Drug Store. All our children have given us a hand in this business from the time they were old enough. However, we must also mention our valued clerks - all of whom but two, have since moved away from Winfield. Following Myrtle Dewar, came Miss Lorraine Powers - now Mrs. Lyle Glinz, then her sister Mrs. Lavina Bystrom - Miss Caroline Wald, now married in Calgary, Mrs. Florence Smith, (wife of our former school principal-Waldon Smith) of Wetaskiwin, Mrs. Eleanor Hansen, (Harold's wife) now of Edmonton, Mrs. Margaret Locke (our then, Station Master Tom Locke's wife-now at Lethbridge), Mrs. Richarda Johanason (wife of Alfred, who for over 30 years was section Foreman in Winfield) - now living in New Westminster, B.C.), Mrs. Nancy Bennett and Mrs. Helen Jones still of Winfield.

Next September we will see our youngest child, Vickie, leave home to enter University to train for Medical Lab. work, thus Lue and I will be back again where we started, without our children. I should add here - my father, John E. Thrasher, who shared our family life for a number of years when the children were small, passed away in 1961 at the age of 87. Stewart at present is back at Northern Alberta Institute of Tech. taking a further course in Credit Business office training and Jean, who trained also in Medical Lab. work and X-Ray, is married to John Lowe living in Jasper, Alberta. They have a little girl, Lisa, our first Grandchild born in August 1970, and are expecting another child in April of this year, 1972.

Thus time marches on.

WILLIAM & BETTY BUNNEY

In the summer of 1934 my parents, Ross and June Beath decided to visit their "old friends" Bill and Elsie Huff so with my brothers Glen and Lloyd and myself (Betty) in the back seat they took a trip north to Battle Lake with the prospects of locating new land. They liked the cosiness of trees close around, and also liked lakes all around for fresh fish for the table, swimming and boating for those of us who wouldn't enjoy fishing. There was always bountiful supplies of wild berries just for the picking. In the fall of 1935, we left our sod banked home at Winnifred, Alberta. We loaded our belongings on Uncle Harold Shepherds truck, and our trailer, which was hitched behind our 1926 Chev. car. On October 5th we arrived at the Huffs. A friend Clinton Angle helped us move and enjoyed the short visit with the Huff's. We stayed with them until Dad had a small one room log cabin, the cracks were chinked with mud and fresh "cow pies", built on NW 19 - 46 - 1 - W5. We moved into our new home directly across the road. With springs and mattresses on the floor in the peak of the cabin we were quite cosy as the floor was always warm up above in contrast to the cold cabin floor on frosty mornings. Mother took our first Christmas tree outside and took a picture of it to send to the folks back home. A Christmas tree we could choose and cut ourselves. We kids couldn't remember ever being without milk before and were overjoyed when we could use canned milk on our porridge. Dad enjoyed it too but Mother didn't fare so well as she detested it so did without or occasionally she used butter on hers. Later when we bought a cow of course no more canned milk. Dad

hitched her up with our horse when he needed a team and it proved to work out quite well considering! For a warm place for pigs, baby calves and chickens, Dad made a side hill dugout with walls five logs above ground. He laid logs side by side over the top and covered it with



William Bunney Family

Christmas 1971

Back: William, Clifford, Larry

Centre: Beverly (Cliff's wife), Grant

Ambrose (Linda's husband), Robin

Front: Betty, Linda

dirt taken from inside. The front wall was mostly window screen-cellaloid coated. A ventilator up from the centre seldom needed to be closed. It was always dry down there and saved a lot of extra feed in winter. At farrowing time no pigs were lost from the cold. A side entry was used into the chickens section. It seemed warmer down there than in our cabin, on extra cold days. I was born at Winnifred on August 30, 1928; Glen on July 27, 1930 and Lloyd on December 30, 1932 also born there. In 1937 Mother took us three children to our grandparents Rev. Harry and Fannie Woods at Craigmyle where our brother Raymond was born on February 23. This made our cabin rather crowded so in 1938 a large log room was built on to the west end, divided we had a living room and three bedrooms. Two sisters were born after this in Wetaskiwin hospital - Elsie on March 3, 1942; Evelyn on Feb. 20, 1945. The people were desperate before going to a doctor. I recall one time Mother was very ill and Grandma Freeman, a very good practical nurse and wonderful neighbor, came and stayed with her till she was well. Everyone went to Grandma with their sickness and she never failed to drop what ever she was doing to go and help

them. She and her husband, Fred, raised two of their Grandchildren Bob and Gwen Hay. Bob is married and lives just north of Wetaskiwin. Gwen married Andy Edinga and lives in Edson.

At Winnifred I was able to stay with my teacher Miss Margaret Kimmett at Cherry Coulie school teacherage during the winter or stormy days, going home for the weekends. When I walked the mile home I was horrified of the badgers. Now up here in the bush, my classmates had me thoroughly convinced the bears and coyotes would get me, but later we kids enjoyed the mile walk and in spring often saw deer and small fawns along the trail and stopped perfectly still till they moved away. Many animal friends were in sight. I was in grade two when I started school at Cree Valley School and Miss Hildor Ecklund was first teacher 1935-36. She married Jim White and moved to Wenham Valley on to W. A. Jones farm, later moving to Wetaskiwin where we used to visit them.

Glen started school the next year with Miss Esther Papineau teaching for two years. She married Wyman Fullerton and they now make their home at Buck Lake. In 1938 Lloyd joined the school troopers with Miss Jean Spencer teaching for one year followed by Miss Dorothy Bean for two years. In 1941 Miss Mae Bunney taught us till Easter 1942 then Mrs. Bernadine Freeman finished the term. One day Miss Bunney was late and towards noon when she came in sight from the south we all decided we'd waited long enough for teacher to come so we all headed home. The ones going south had to return to school. Needless to say all students going north had the rest of the day off which we made the most of. Miss Bunney married Joseph Astle that summer and they made their home at Yeoford for some time. As grade nine was the highest taught in rural schools, like many others I continued on with a correspondence course. The rest of our family were able to get their grade twelve from home, as the amalgamation of the schools came shortly after and they rode school bus to Lakedell. Miss Sophie Kurtin taught the next two years and Raymond started school. Mrs. Freeman taught again for a few years. Elsie and Evelyn started at Lakedell.

Rev. Willard Thomas named Cree Valley school after the heroes of an Indian Battle fought at the east end of Battle Lake. It was built in 1908 and still stands today as a Community Centre. In the centre of the room was our only source of heat, a barrel stove with stove pipes leading to the brick chimney in the east end. The barrel laid on it's side with four legs welded on the bottom side and two shelves welded on the top of it. Cord wood was the only fuel and often green wood was all there was to burn. The shelves were used to dry frozen wet mittens and socks on, many were scorched before their owners checked them. Teachers often rubbed feeling back into equally frozen hands and feet. There was a rush at noon hour to get space on top of the stove to toast frozen sandwiches. The water fount usually had to be thawed on the stove too. Ink wells and ink bottles were squeezed on top too, occasionally exploding, sending ink flying. Desks were pushed as close as we dared so we could keep warm enough to keep our

minds on our work. There was fun too sleigh riding. All cardboard boxes were finished off by those without sleighs. Fox and Goose was always played in or after fresh snow fall. Lots of blackboard games were played on real cold days, also party games. Some of the teachers let us dance at noon. In summer the heat, not frost, plagued us but it was usually fun time. Dad had looked ahead when he looked for land and made sure he was close to school. We only had one mile to go. Frome's, Hagen's, Nilsson's had $3\frac{1}{2}$ to $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles to come and winters were real hard for them. However we got very cold too. Bud Nadeau - who now owns Westrose store - was janitor when we first started school. He carried water from their home down below the school and it was hard to make one pail of water last 35 students all day when it was hot and everyone wanted to play softball. Usually "scrub" was played unless they were practicing to meet with South Pigeon Lake or Peaceful Valley schools for a game. Other games played were Red Line, Red Light, Kick the Can, Anti - I - Over, Hopscotch, Hide and Seek, Tug-O-War. Bob Hay and Archie Young were janitors afterwards. Some school days in summer all students had to go to South Pigeon Lake School where we filed past Doc Stevens and his nurse for our immunization shots. When I got my small pox shot I was covered with large pox and desperately sick for over a week, a real case of it Doc said and most unusual. A team and wagon was always arranged for, for these trips and it took a whole day. Later Mobile Clinics came to the new Battle Lake Hall and each school filed by for medicals. The following day minor operations were done to remove tonsils and adenoids, circumcisions, bad teeth, etc. When the anaesthetic wore off parents took the patients home for further care. We kids dreaded these clinics.

Dad had a hard time clearing land, along with many others. An Axe and grub hoe was a slow process to remove trees and their roots. The trembling aspen(poplar) roots had to be dug right out because of their tap root. If you didn't the plow hung up on them. It was tough breaking land, even on Dad's where the new growth was only twenty feet high since the big fire, but old roots were hidden beneath the surface and were still very solid. Dad hired some of the neighbors to help but this was slow and discouraging and eventually he hired a "cat" and dozer. The two teams of horses just weren't fast enough.

The folks had a phonograph and lots of records we played endlessly so this helped fill our ego for music. Mother had learned to play piano and organ in her young years and she sang beautifully both alto and soprano. At the Battle Lake church there was an old organ and Mother played it so well that many never knew it had any keys out of tune, because she played around them. She played every Sunday and my brothers and I often sang solos. Mother often sang duet with Tom Gronow until they moved to Yeoford. Does anyone remember those old radio plays - Fibber MaGee and Molly, always full of laughs and so was Our Miss Brooks, and full of chills was The Shadow Knows and I Love a Mystery. We loved all of them. About 1939 Grandfather Woods sent us a tube radio that ran on power pack batteries. Oh the excitement we all felt when that parcel arrived from Eatons mail order house. And how we saved on it when the batteries started to get low. Music was a big part of us no matter what we did. Mrs. E. Erickson played guitar accompaniment with Mother on the organ and also sang with her in later years after they bought Hawney's place.

There were anxious times too. In '34 when we came to look for land Glen decided he'd follow Dad and was lost for some time. Another time in late spring Mother and we kids were coming home the trail past Tom Gronow's and we had our horse Old Bess hitched to the "Bennett Buggy". Our spirits were high as it was a nice day. We had to cross a bit of swamp and the frost was going out of the bottom, this we didn't know but Old Bess knew and simply sat down on her haunches and refused to go any further. Now what to do! We couldn't get her to get up and we couldn't pull the two wheeled buggy backwards to get her out of the shafts. We finally unharnessed her and only then would she get up and move back out of the swamp. After reharnessing her we were able to hook her to the buggy and pull it out backwards. We then took another trail around. When I was seven I got my hand badly scalded with hot water and I was abhorred at Mother using sweet cream for it, but it healed beautifully. About 7 years later, while rendering fat, I spilled hot grease on both hands nearly cooking them. This was far more painful and I missed several weeks of school before one hand was healed enough to use. Mother got her wrist and collar bone broken when Old Bess fell with her while she was out hunting cows. She managed to get home somehow but was unable to do anything for several weeks.

The Sandy McPherson family lived in Anna Young's home just to the north of us awhile and they had three children Lorraine, Belva and Cameron. The girls and I had many gay times together. Sandy and his wife live at Mulhurst now. Lorraine married Mr. Hannah and live at Agassiz, B.C.; Belva wed Mr. Marceaux and lives in Wetaskiwin. Cameron lives at Terrace, B.C.; Mrs. McPherson's brother Jeff Sharkley lives in Winfield.

The first baptism I ever witnessed was performed by my Grandfather Woods outside the Battle Lake P.O. in front of the foot gate. Roy Hunter's twins, just babes in arms, Beth and

Bruce were baptized early one morning with Mother as witness.

Cliff Tuckey owned Yeoford store and Post Office and had a "cream route" and we often got our groceries this way, ordering one week and got them the next. They had two children Dorothy and Ralph, Dorothy being very acrobatic.

There were several card parties in winter and since 1940 alternated between Yeoford and Battle Lake. Roy Hunter would take his team and sleigh and pick up everyone interested, leaving real early if we had to go to Yeoford via the back trail so Cotterills and Phippens could go too.

After I finished school I worked for Burgess and Alice Fullerton on the farm at Battle Lake, then I cared for Jody Lynn while Mrs. Bernadine Freeman taught school at Cree Valley and her Dad Charlie worked in his sawmill by Bloomfield Lake. After Fullertons bought the Yeoford store I came with them and was able to gain some clerking experience which I have used from time to time. That fall I went to Spruce Grove and worked for Glen and Kay Carmichael caring for three year old Fraser while his parents taught school. While I was there they were blessed with twins, Blair and Sheila on March 18, 1946 and they were a joy to care for. All three of their children are married now. Fraser lives in Vancouver, Blair in Edmonton and Sheila in Ontario. Glen and Kay have retired now and the school term of 1971-72 they are touring the U.S.A. to return in June to their cottage at Wabamun Lake. Glen taught high school at Wenham Valley.

William Bunney (Bill) was born at Battle Lake on July 4, 1923 to Ivo William and Naomi Bunney. A brother for James, Mae and Sarah. Pearl, Florence, Betty and Harold were born after they moved to Yeoford. They took their schooling at Seattle School. Afterwards Bill went to Wetaskiwin and took a mechanics course working for Nick Oswald, the I.H. Dealer. He helped out at home mostly but come threshing time he went out to make a bit of extra money - Botha, Ferintosh, Wetaskiwin, etc. and back home to help with the harvest which was usually later. He did a lot of hitch-hiking.

On Saturday July 20, 1946 Bill and I were married at my folks home and the Monday following we went to work for Bill and Kathy Elliott who had two children, Eva and Donald. Bill helped with haying and I helped Kathy keep the men fed. Evenings we spent building ourselves a one room cabin and after haying we moved into our first home on the N.E. 35 - 46 - 3 - W5. For a whole year we used an old cook stove that had been discarded because you could see flames around the top edge wherever you looked. We were fortunate no mishaps occurred and after Bill worked the winter at Albert Nadeau's logging camp we were able to get a new one which we still use. Bill farmed for his Dad for three years then we were on our own again. In the fall of 1950 we went to Morinville to visit my cousin Don Shepherd's and Bill went to work with him to see what oil rig work was like. He decided it looked like fast money and gave it a whirl for seven years. For six months we lived at Redwater while the Regent rig worked in the area. Then we decided to try and keep the farm going too so I came back to the farm, Bill also worked at Carrot Creek, Bruderheim, Violet Grove, Drayton Valley, Yeoford, Cornation, Bonnie Glen and Battle Lake.

Clifford was born on August 10, 1947; Linda on January 26, 1952 and Larry on July 2, 1953.

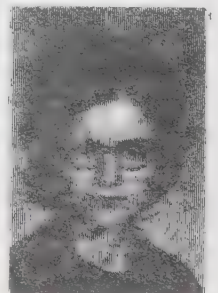
Receives Governor-General's Medal

Linda Bunney

Wins

High Award

Linda Maxine Bunney of Yeoford is the winner of the Governor General's award for the highest marks received in Grade 9 departmental examinations last June, in Wetaskiwin County.



This made our one room too full so another large room was built on two sides in 1954 but the bedrooms still aren't divided. Robin was born on March 29, 1955. This completed our family and all were born in Wetaskiwin hospital. In 1958 Bill came back to the farm and worked on rigs if there were any nearby. After a back injury he decided to try Forestry Lookouts - 1962 on isolated Hamell Lookout, 1963 & 1964 at Ansell Lookout near Edson. Realizing that he couldn't make a living on one quarter that's one third swamp he went back to school February 1969 at N.A.I.T. till June 1970. Following that he went to Olds College where he is taking a

Soil and Water Course, working for Forestry the summer months.

Our land was owned by William Milton, and A. C. Bunney owned land east of Falun. Each wanting land in the other district decided to trade land. A.C. Bunney sold it to Ivo Bunney who turned it over to Bill. Because A. C. and Ivo had their own homes several other families made it their home over the years. Bill Welsh family, The Fulton family (Mr. Fulton, daughter Edith and two sons), from here the Fultons moved to NW 35 - 47 - 2 - W5, Ed Hamling family lived here till they moved onto their own quarter NW 35 - 46 - 3 - W5.

We sold a NE lot to Mr. MacIntyre and Yeoford store was moved to its present sight on September 26, 1950. The garage was moved up before it on September 15. Just to the south of it we donated a lot to the community with the understanding it would remain community property - not to ever be sold or turned over to anyone else - and Seattle Community Hall was moved from Knob Hill to its new location on March 19, 1952, on this lot. A fuel oil furnace was installed the last week of 1971 and makes it easier to keep the hall warm.

Some of the ministers who held services at Battle Lake Church were Rev. Harland of Westerose, Rev. Jack Regan who drove from Brightview Baptist Church, Rev. Rudolph Jacobson of Westerose who was holding services in 1946, the year he performed our wedding ceremony. Twenty-five years later, in his Wetaskiwin Church he married our only daughter Linda to Grant Ambrose on August 14, 1971. Rev. Ed Hunt is now holding services there. Rev. Hunt lives on a farm on the south side of Battle Lake with his family. Clifford, our oldest, was married in Warburg to Beverly Lemke on June 12, 1971. Larry, our second son, is cooking in camps in the Arctic. Robin is still in high school.

The Art Lemke family came to our district before Christmas 1959 from the Ponoka area. They also had four boys - Leslie, Vince, Douglas, Kevin. Mrs. Lemke died a year after arriving at Yeoford. Morley Williams was a bachelor sincerely interested in his fellow man and the welfare of his land around him. Ever since he came to Battle Lake he always sent money to Mrs. B. Freeman and Christmas gifts were given to every child attending school at Cree Valley as long as I was going to school, I understand until Cree Valley was closed. Then he donated to Battle Lake and Yeoford Ladies Clubs towards gifts and candy bags for children in the communities. He was up on a haystack one time putting plywood on the top (instead of plastic) when a strong gust of wind came up and blew him off the stack and he floated down to the ground with the plywood, unhurt.

In 1952 we had absolutely no snow until after New Years 1953, the first green Christmas I had ever seen.

A true friend to everyone, our dear neighbor Anthony (Tony) Adams who bought his land from Grant Dettman when they moved to Arrow Lakes, B.C. Tony was a great fisherman and was game to go fishing whenever anyone came along to go. He was also a good cook and he cooked fish that were a delight for anyone to taste. He smoked fish also which were delicious. And he taught Bill how to smoke them too. One time Bill had a batch of fish almost smoked and had to leave for a while so I was to put one last bit of wood on to finish them off. Not knowing what tamarac can do to a smoking batch, I fired up with some handy wood from the woodpile. He took a friend down to show off these fish and they were literally drooping with soot. Woe is me that time! Tony's daughter Doris is married to "Bud" Gordon Tufts and they lived in the police barracks here at Yeoford for some time until they moved up to their farm. They left the farm after some time and, after various moves while Bud welded for other welding shops, they settled at Warburg where they built their own shop and business. The Tufts have one son Tom who married Elaine Peterson on May 29, 1970 and Cheryl still at home. Tony passed away on August 8, 1963 at 67 years of age, after a fishing excursion.

Another dear friend of ours Sophie Raulson - "Grandma" to all, tells us a Mr. Hunter, a teacher was riding to Wenham Valley on a wagon, not feeling well he got off to rest a bit and passed away as he rested on a stone near where our house stands now.

Bill recalls one time while his Grandparents lived in Wetaskiwin he rode his bike to Wetaskiwin. Peddling on gravel wasn't easy and he got caught in the rain. When he got there he was made to get into some of Grandma's clothes till his clothes got dry, so he sheepishly stayed in the basement till his were dry.

Victor Thompson was a foreman in the early 1920's when the roads in the west country were being pushed through. His daughter married Max Sears and lives on a farm east of the city of Wetaskiwin. Max Sears and my father took grade 12 together in Medicine Hat. Ole Hyden, graderman took charge when Vic was away. Others in the crew were Mike Kriese, Gilbert Swanson, Carl Brown.

A few tense moments have come our way since we were wed too. The second winter it was 30 below zero and my brother Glen got his thumb taken off trying to start our milking machine. The Sunburst Bus had already gone by. With nothing for pain, Bill and he hitch-hiked

to Wetaskiwin to a doctor and he was able to save his thumb. When Clifford was about 2 years he was kicked by a cow and her hoof print was the size of his face, firmly planted, and it stayed on his face for several hours. Linda got lost in Wetaskiwin when she was about 3 years old. When Robin was the same age he also got lost, at his grandmother Bunneys. He tried to follow us to the hay field and several hours later Mirt Murfitt found him around on Elliotts flat. The road crew working in Yeoford are putting the road in south past our house also searched, as well as the neighbors. He never wandered again. Larry was always first to catch every disease going. Clifford completed a course in Instrumentation at N.A.I.T. and is working in an oil plant at Windfall. Linda got the Centennial Governor Generals Award for the Wetaskiwin County in Grade Nine, and top in Grade 10, 11 and twelve too. Larry took a Foods and Nutrition Course and is now with Fortier Catering, mostly in the Arctic. Robin is also taking Foods and Nutrition Course and also enjoys doing Photography for the year book. All the children went to Winfield School by school bus driven by Vern Grover. The last two years his son Gary has driven the bus. Mr. Grover retired with an accident free driving record.

The Power and telephone have been brought into this area since I moved to Yeoford. Having had our house wired ready for the power, our home, which is rather dark was instantly lit up at 12:30 noon on September 30th, 1957 when the power was turned on, a thrashing crew were in the house eating dinner at the time and I had the switches turned on so we'd know when the switch was made. Another modern convenience was the phone. We were unable to get on the Winfield Rural Mutual but when it dissolved and A.G.T. put in under ground lines we took it in our home. We could use it locally a few weeks before we were connected to long distance at 12:01 a.m. December 18, 1967. We were saved many miles of driving by this new addition and of course this cut down on visiting our neighbors in person too. With the power came travelling salesmen and it seemed the influx would never stop. Trying to sell everything electric as well as books of every kind. A Better Business sign stopped this at our home.

Our first water was carried from a spring in the swamp $\frac{1}{4}$ mile away. Here we also kept our fresh meat, submerged in sealers. Later we had a well drilled, by Glen Johnson, beside our house, nice soft water from a 96 foot hole. The water comes to within 12 feet of the top.

In 1968 it was very dry and fires raged all around us, we fought fire for several days. It kept the women busy keeping a food supply out to the men. One day we set out for Mrs. Minnie Hempstocks funeral in Wetaskiwin and finding my brother Glen and his wife alone fighting fire, stayed to help protect the buildings. Every other neighbor had already gone to the funeral. That day even wet manure burned and high winds fanned the fire on, to jump fireguards and roads in spite of all efforts we made. God answered prayers that day, there's no other answer, and their buildings were saved.

I started reporting for local newspapers on April 1, 1954. At that time reporting for Wetaskiwin Times, and Winfield Gazette, also printed at the Times office. Later the Rimbey Record and Wetaskiwin County News accepted my efforts. The Winfield Gazette was named by running a contest with the Winfield School children participating and the best chosen for the paper. In later years the Winfield Clarion was added to the Rimbey Record also by a contest. The Winfield Gazette and Wetaskiwin County News were both short lived papers. W.D. Stovel was the editor of the Wetaskiwin Times when I started out.



Bill Bunney Fleshing
Beaver.



Three Hides which brought
\$100.00 in spring of 1961.

John Kvigstad bought NW 35 - 46 - 3 -W5 and moved here from Metiskow and lived across the road from us for several years. He taught Bill how to skin Beaver. Bill tacked & stretched his beaver on a fleshing board and usually did this evenings in the house. He trapped under Frank Lofoy, head game warden for this area - permits in this area of Wetaskiwin County where beaver were creating a hazard to roads and field. The picture of the three dried hides on the previous page show the skins that brought us the most ever received for hides. This was \$100.00 at the Edmonton Fur Auction. Later John Kvigstad sold to Mrs. Bertha Anderson and daughter Betty who stayed for several years. They both cared for our children a lot if we were in need of a baby sitter or help. She sold to Emil Litvak of Wetaskiwin. She now lives in Edmonton with Betty as far as we know. The Litvaks are out to the farm every week-end except in the winter months.

I enjoyed being a member of the Battle Lake Ladies Club and since I was married have been a member of the Yeoford Ladies Club. Along with Effie Rathgeber I have been involved with the Winfield Recreation Centre ever since they started. For three years now have encouraged entries for this book. I also assisted Virgil Blackmore leading Mount Butte 4H Grain Club when 4H was first formed in this area, working until the Grain Club switched to Beef.

John Kvigstad is now living in Provost Hillcrest Lodge, Provost, Alberta. He was a shoemaker and took a course in taxidermy. When John moved into his homestead shack (the old Murfitt homestead) it was different from most. The walls were papered with newspaper but nailed over that in the kitchen were flattened tin cans and the lids were pieced together all over the walls.

ANTON BUKKEMS

Mr. and Mrs. Bukkems arrived in Winfield from Holland in 1954. Mrs. Bukkems had an uncle and two brothers who had come previously, and this was the reason they came to this area. They first settled a mile east of Winfield on the farm now owned by Mr. Scotty Donald. In 1962, they traded the farm to Mr. Donald for the one they presently live on SW 9 - 46 - 4 - 5.

Their children were all born after coming to Canada; Tommy, Johanna, Walter, Peter, Henry, Tony, Nellie and Frances.

JIM BURTCH

In 1932, my Dad Jim Burtch, and my brother Neil came from Calgary to the Pendryl district to start homesteading. Our home was situated two miles west of the old Pendryl store, or half a mile south of the Maywood cemetery. A few months after the house was built, my mother Elsie, my sister Ivadell, my brother Gordon and I moved to start our new life.

Neil stayed with us for awhile, then moved back to Calgary to work. There, he met Mollie Watson and they were married, soon starting a family of their own. They are now living in Edmonton.

When our baby brother Gordon was just over a year old, he contacted pneumonia and passed away. He is buried in the Maywood Cemetery. My sister and I started school together in Maywood. Mrs. Anna Taylor was our teacher and I, being five years old, quite often fell asleep during the afternoon. Mrs. Taylor used to get Sybil Pocha to run me around the school a couple of times to wake me up. I remember one day, an airplane flew over the school and it was such a rare sight that Mrs. Taylor let the whole school out to watch it.

Norman Brown, Esther Wickman and I had a bet to see which of us would be at school every day during a real cold spell. One day, when I got there, I was the only one there, so Mr. McGinnis (our teacher then) sent me home. I wasn't too far from home when a wolf crossed in front of me. It stopped and had a look at me, but then went on his way. At first, I didn't realize it was a wolf and when I did, I made it home in record time! Many times, we'd hear a bear rooting around the cans that were thrown out in our own private garbage dump. One winter, just the day after Christmas, the wolves killed a female elk about a hundred yards from our house. It was about nine or ten in the morning when Dad found it, and it was still quite warm. No doubt the wolves weren't quite brave enough to stay to eat it then, and were going to come back when everything was quiet around our house, but Dad beat them to it. He bled it, skinned

it, cut it up, and it was the best meat we ever had. My mother always made stew and roast, but I could never make up my mind which I liked best.

During the 30's, the lumber business was booming. I can remember many of the truck drivers stopping at our place to warm up around the air tight heater, and to take on a load of Mom's split pea soup which was always on the stove, waiting for the next hungry truck driver to come along.

Years passed and Iva dell married Ole Bergquist in 1946. They moved to Alder Flats raising a family of two boys and a girl. I met Bud Nadeau and we were married in 1947. Shortly after, in 1950, my mother passed away with cancer, and following that, in 1951, Bud and I had the first of our two girls. We lived at Ma-Me-O for about 17 years and during this time, my Father passed away at the age of 91. Both he and Mom are buried in the Maywood Cemetery. In 1969, we purchased the Westrose Store where we have lived ever since. I don't know who owns our old homestead now, but every couple of years, we drive back to have a look and to collect a few old memories.

by Shirley Oriole Nadeau

RALPH BURRIS

In the year 1925, with his family living in Wetaskiwin, Ralph Burris worked on the railway in the Winfield area. That railway was then known as the "Lacombe and Northwestern", but later amalgamated with, and became known as the CPR.

That year, Ralph Burris, Ernie Russell and Albert Lowe took out quarter sections to homestead, all on the same section, in the area later to be called Norbuck.

The railway at that time ended one mile north of Winfield. In the summer of 1926, it was extended to Breton. The railway siding was built on the old North Buck Lake trail, and so was named Norbuck.

In April, 1926 Ralph and Mabel Burris and four children, Marvin, Ruth, Roy and Ernest (then four months old), moved from Wetaskiwin to the homestead quarter. They moved by a four-horse wagon, leading two cows. The family lived in a rough log shack built by the men, until their log cabin was completed later that year. Another daughter, Nina, was born in Lacombe in 1928 and Ray William was born in 1930, also in Lacombe.

In November, 1928, the family moved to the old John Penley place in Knob Hill and three older children attended the Seattle school in the Knob Hill district. The following June, the family returned to the homestead at Norbuck. That fall, Marvin attended the Winfield school.

In the fall of 1930, the first Norbuck school was opened in a building owned by Frank Rath, and which later became his general store and the Post Office. The school-house was built that same winter and opened for classes on the first of May, 1931. Classes ran for fourteen months without a break to help the children make up for lost time.

Fraser Brothers, known as D. R. Fraser Lumber Co., moved into the district in the fall of 1926, to locate about 1½ miles north west of Norbuck, this gave employment for most of the men of the district for many years.

by and Marvin Burris.

ARTHUR BURROWS

Before relating some of the experiences which happened to the Burrows family when they lived at Buck Lake perhaps I ought to mention first that Arthur Burrows emigrated from England to Canada in May 1913.

For a few months he stayed in Montreal, then travelled West working here and there until he reached Alberta. In the fall of 1914 he filed on a homestead at Minnehik, as Buck Lake was then called, and although he built a cabin he did not stay there continuously, he did however put in the winter of 1915 - 16 there.

The first World War was now going into its second year so in the spring of 1916 he joined the Canadian Army, and was sent over to Europe in 1917.

He came back to Canada in 1919, and after leaving the Army his plan was to go pros-

pecting in the Northern part of Alberta, but because there was an influenza epidemic going around at that time he decided against it.

Instead he bought a small sawmill, and moved it to Minnehik. This was a very bad winter with lots of snow, and on the way from Battle Lake the boiler was tipped over into the snow several times before reaching its destination.

To operate this mill the man power was supplied mostly by settlers. At this time settlers could obtain a free permit to cut so many board feet of logs. These logs were sometimes brought to the sawmill, and made into lumber for their own use on the homestead. Previous to this the nearest sawmill was around 30 miles away.

In July 1920 the father, mother, and sister of A. J. Burrows arrived in Canada, and came to live with him at Minnehik.

Maywood school was built in the spring of 1921 with lumber cut at our mill, and the work on the building was done mostly by volunteer labour. Art, as he was sometimes called made the first desks used by the pupils, also the teacher's desk, and my father made the teachers chair.

My father who had been ill off and on ever since he left England now became worse, but it was not known how serious his illness was until a Doctor came out from Wetaskiwin. He at once said my father must go to hospital, and so while my brother drove the Doctor back to Yeoford where he had left his car, Mr. E. Ellsworth, our nearest neighbor then arranged with 10 other neighbors to carry my father on a stretcher to Knob Hill, a distance of 25 miles, because of the bad condition of the roads. Mr. W. Siegel, and my mother accompanied them with a team and wagon. I might say here these men all willingly gave of their help, and time and it was much appreciated by the family.

After reaching Knob Hill a light truck belonging to Mr. S. Weaver, who owned the Pendryl Store, was kindly and loaned it to them to continue the journey to Wetaskiwin. Except for 2 men, and my mother, and brother, the rest of the men returned home to Minnehik. Upon reaching Wetaskiwin, my father was operated on right away, but died the next day, June 15th, 1921.

In 1922 some of the settlers thought that a Justice of the Peace was needed in the district, so Arthur Burrows was appointed to this office, which was held by him for 10 years. During this period, besides the usual routine business there were also a few trials, all held in the front

room of our house.

In the fall of 1924 we bought another sawmill from the Heighington family who lived on the other side of Buck Lake. It was at this time that Allan Siegel became the partner of A. J. Burrows, a partnership which lasted until 1952, when both men retired from the lumber business. I might mention here that Allan Siegel, and Eva Burrows were married in October of 1928.

Lumber made at this mill was shipped to various points in Alberta and Saskatchewan, after being hauled by 6 horse outfits to Hoadley, a distance of 28 miles, this being the end of the steel. 1924-25 winter was very cold with lots of snow, once the thermometer dropped to 60 below. Owing to the severe weather we were only able to ship 5 cars of lumber before spring break-up.

While operating this mill we usually moved there in November, and stayed until around the end of March when we moved back to the farm while there was still ice on Buck Lake.

In 1926 the railway was extended from Hoadley to Breton, this helped us out considerably for we now hauled our lumber to Norbuck, a distance of only 12 miles from the North end of Buck Lake.

In 1932 the sawmill was moved to Norbuck, and operated there until 1944 when it was moved once again, this time to the Peace River country.

1937 was a disastrous year for us. In May the forest fires were very bad, and in spite of our men fighting the fires for 3 days and nights without much rest the sawmill at Norbuck was completely destroyed, as well as a large quantity of lumber, and other forest products. The only thing left was the sawdust pile, and later on this was shipped to points in Alberta and in Saskatchewan for use in making grasshopper poison. The mill was later rebuilt, and of course the machinery all had to be overhauled before it could be used again.

1939 was another bad year for forest fires, this time we lost the camp buildings which



Art Burrows on Stretcher
Carried by Herman Siegel
and his Dad Bill - 1921.

were situated at the North end of Buck Lake, and also a quantity of lumber etc. This camp was also rebuilt.

While operating the sawmill at Minnehik, and at the north end of Buck Lake, and also for a year or two at Norbuck dry wood was used to fire the boilers. After this the boilers were fired with shavings.

We were to have one more fire before leaving Norbuck. While finishing up the planing in 1944 a spark set fire to the shavings in the storage bin, and in no time the mill was destroyed. This delayed us in moving to Aggie near High Prairie, because all the machinery had to be overhauled before shipping.

Our farm at Buck Lake was sold to Marvin Becker in the spring of 1945, Allan Siegel had already sold his land to L. Brzus whose land adjoined it.

This marks the end of 30 years at Buck Lake for A. J. Burrows, and 32 years for A. J. Siegel.

by Mrs. Eva Siegel.

Lumbering - Burrow Mill



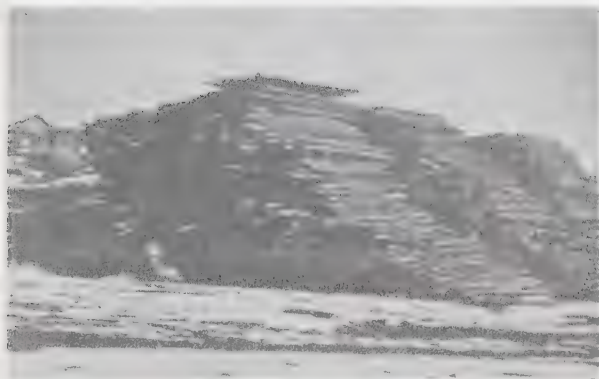
Saw Mill - north end of Buck Lake
1929



STEAM BOILER - NORBUCK 1937



Burrow's millsite north of Buck Lake - 1938



Log Piles - Norbuck - 1938



Art Burrows Mill Crew - 1929 or 30

BUS LINE - WETASKIWIN TO WINFIELD

Bus service was started between Winfield and Wetaskiwin by Emil Trapton and his brother Stuart in 1934. In 1935 Sunburst Motors either bought or took over this service

Some very early drivers were Joe Gallagher, Gilbert Smith and Mr. Malmas. Evan Vaughn was a regular driver from 1941 to 1950 and was very often accompanied by Little Billy Welsford who said of Evan "He was not only a pro and master, he was the greatest". No matter how rough the roads were he went out of his way to do errands for people along the route and was well liked by all. He worked in the Sunburst office in Edmonton for three years before his retirement and now lives in Penticton, B. C.

About 1948 this bus service was extended to Buck Lake.

Later drivers were Larry Stewart of Buck Lake - 1950-52, Bill Roloff - 1952 - 56, Francis Kahlman - 1956 - 59, Don Smith 1959 - 61. There were several others, names unknown. The Bus service was discontinued in 1963 or 64.

CANOE PAGEANT

Any history written of the Alder Flats district should include the Centennial year, which is not a story of families and individuals, but a record of a district as a community. Although not old history; so connected with the past that the two weave into one.

On receiving information that the now famous Canoe Voyageurs, whose 2,000 mile journey, from West to Eastern Canada inspired a whole nation, would make their first stop - over at Alder Flats, we, as a community thought what better chance to celebrate an occasion of 100 years, than to involve ourselves with this program, which installed pride in all the hearts of young and old, for our country and the events and adventures which brought us to this day and age.

Spearheaded by a capable and willing group of people, a day of celebration was planned, with the help of all. The people of Alder Flats wanted to show their Western hospitality to the chosen paddlers of all provinces. An invitation was given to join us in a huge beef B.B.Q., supper, pit style, to be held at the forestry landing 11 miles out of town, on the banks of the Saskatchewan River. Plans to include people from far and near to meet the Voyageurs grew, and a day of entertainment for all. Capable hands made an over night settlement on the air strip: booths for refreshments and entertainment; and an open air dance floor; tables to feed the people; and kitchen arrangements. Willing hands dug pits to cook 300 lbs. of prime beef, pounds of baked potatoes; ladies cooked and supplied pies, beans, and all the trimmings for just such an occasion. Bachelors provided coffee, sugar and cream. The children so enthused by now, prepared songs and dances to greet the visitors. People were given the chance to show their skill at such events as log sawing, nail hammering, and horse shoe pitching, and for the gamblers, games of chance.

A highlight of the day was a pony express race, from Alder Flats to the air strip, the spirits of olden days rode high.

Posters were an item of pride as the children competed to make them and inform the area for miles around of our plans, and invite them all to join us. Canoe replicas appeared at crossings and highways, directing the way, so no one was in doubt of the time and place and events, although many had not heard or known of our community before. And so the day came closer and closer.

With the cooperation of the teachers and county, the school stayed open for the Victoria day holiday, so the children could have the day, Wednesday, to be part of all events; the excitement was high.

At last the day had come, everyone was amazed at the number of people already camped over night in the area and vehicles that came in a steady stream, as the hours progressed. Everything was in full swing and then as in all such events, the weather had a hand in things. First clouds then drizzle, and an anxious thought of our roads and the conditions rain can bring to them. By afternoon with a crowd of approximately 2,500 people already there, and one forestry road, their only way out, people were advised not to attempt the 11 miles from Alder Flats to the strip.

The paddlers came in at suppertime, wet and hungry, and enjoyed the welcome hot meal, and company of the crowds waiting on the banks to greet them. All thoughts of continuing with the evening program had to be abandoned as rain set in with no hope of clearing. So, the people turned home with disappointment, but with the satisfaction of achieving most of what had been planned and the heart-warming "Thank you" echoes of the people we had set out to entertain ---"The Voyageurs"

The day was memorable, but as it turned out, the night even more so, in the minds of many as they spent the night on that 11 miles of road, impassable by the mud of one mile of dirt road, and numbers of vehicles having to pass through. Progress was slow. Fires were lit along the road, to warm the waiting throngs as volunteer's cars and tractors pulled one and all over that patch of road. But the voices of the people singing, gave evidence that the spirit to overcome is as strong now as in the days of the past, and it will long live in the memory of

any who had the fortune to experience this small page of our history.



PONY EXPRESS WINNER — Doyle Seely of Alder Flats is seen here with the saddle and one of the horses which helped him win the Pony Express race during the activities welcoming the Voyageur Canoe Pagenat recently. Riders were required to change saddles and horses three times in the 12¹/₂ mile run. Doyle made one change in 40 seconds and crossed the finish line in 32 minutes, 10.2 seconds. Other winners of prizes donated by Wetaskiwin businessmen included D. Dorchester of Thorsby (35:22.6), Alfred Carter of Winfield (35:36.2), Vic Miller of Buck Lake (36:8.9), and Willard Robinson of Breton (39:11.2). Rain did not muddy the course until the first three had crossed the finish line. The other five contestants included Lyle Lyster of Winfield, Ed Lauer of Drayton Valley, Al Brulotte of Kavanagh, Doug Patten of Buck Lake and Clyde Hammond of Alder Flats.



Part of the huge crowd which gathered to meet the canoes at their first stopping point.



The Army force travelling with the Voyageurs had their share of trouble like this on the roads made almost impassable at spots and very greasy throughout the area.
County News Photo.



Part of the huge crowd which gathered to meet the canoes at their first stopping point.
County News Photo.

By Mrs. Eileen Dunn.

HAROLD CAMBRIDGE

Harold Cambridge, I and our daughter Dorothy came in March 1930 to Wenham Valley District, bought the land from Alex Scott, where he lived before he moved to Lyndale, Alberta for a few years before moving to Breton to live, he has since passed away.

When the drought came in the 30's we decided to go up there, having heard so much about this place being a good ranching country. But we were very disappointed with it, only timber and lots of sawmills, no way to make a decent living, only one thing, you could raise a good garden and there were lots of wild berries. But for livestock the grass never matured so there was no strength in it.

We went up there with wagons, as we took all our belongings and livestock, made three trips, took about three days for each trip. We had to stop and rest the cattle and horses and get an early start in the mornings. There were very few cars then. We would stop at Wetaskiwin and get 9 to 10 hundred pounds of flour and lots of groceries such as sugar, coffee, tea Etc.

There was a small house we stayed in till we got our five room lumber house built.

Our first post master was Dan Nicholson, about two and a half miles from us. They operated a small grocery store together with the post office. We used to buy some of our food there as well as at Yeoford, Winfield and Breton. Both Mr. and Mrs. Nicholson have passed away. They had a son Malcom and two daughters Margaret and Christine. I believe they went to Vancouver, B.C. to live.

Our farming was done by horses, which was a hard job as you had to cut the trees and brush with an axe and pull the big roots out before the land could be broke. There was so much timber that one couldn't clear very much in a season so no one had very large farms. Life in those days was pretty tough, if you had anything to sell you couldn't get much for it. It wasn't easy to get the bare necessities. Cattle sold at eight dollars a head. You could buy lumber for twelve dollars a thousand. These days farming is done with up to date machinery as well everything in your home or outside buildings have electricity.

Our youngest daughter Marjorie was born in 1934. Dorothy our oldest daughter started school at Wenham Valley with Miss Moyer her first teacher, then Augusta Goodhand taught for two years. Jean Fullerton from Battle Lake was the last teacher.

The earlier neighbors before we came were the Nicholsons, J. Bunney, John Reid, Gillies Rathgeber's, Albert Penley, McLaughlin's, Wheale's, Alfred Stone, Hill's, DeWitts, Ringburn, Bowman's, Baynes, Collisson, Skoglunds, August Diestings, Sheppards, Harry Ashers, Doc Covey. The ones which came after us were Russell Lawrence's, Art Norman's, Louis Albright, Grovers, Jack McFadden, Gus Enberg and Gibbons. R. Lawrence's moved back to Milk River, Jock McFadden's went to Vancouver, Harry Asher's were living in Breton.

There was a lot of entertainment such as hockey, baseball and dances. Harold was floor manager and called square dances at the dances. I remember one time we had gone to Breton to a dance, it started to rain and rained all night. We started for home but it was so muddy we slid off the road and were unable to get back without help. We walked to the nearest neighbor, the Ringburns, they were kind enough to put us up for the night and helped pull our old Model T. Ford car out of the ditch the next morning.

Harold was manager for the baseball team also for the Columbia Beaver hockey team from 1931 to 1935. We made a rink by damming up a creek on Alfred Stones place, which all the hockey players helped make. Our team consisted of Captain Matheson, George Fontaine, Cy Cook, Clarence Reid, Jock McFadden, Albert Penley, Louis Starr (drowned at Pigeon Lake), and Walden Smith. We played at Pigeon Lake, Battle Lake, Breton and at the rink at Stone's. We had baseball games on Sunday at our place and had a refreshment booth. Surprising how many people came to these games.

Doc Covey lived there before we came in 1930, in a small shack, he used to come to visit us quite often until his health got so poor he was unable to come. One morning Harold went by there and noticed no smoke coming from the chimney so he went in to see, and found him sick in bed. He got him to come and stay with us where he passed away. The funeral service was held at our house, with Rev. Richard from Breton. Rev. Richard lives at Strome now, his wife passed away some years ago.

We came back to our farm here at Daysland in 1936. In 1942 Harold joined the R. C. A. F. and we moved to Edmonton for five years. He went overseas in January 1943. After the war we came back to the farm here. In 1950 we bought a grocery store in Daysland. In 1957

we retired to town where we are still living. Our daughter Marjorie, Mrs. Raymond Brown, lives in Daysland and Dorothy, Mrs. Eric Beddoes lives on a farm near by.

Hockey League, in Wenham district, about 1936

Pigeon Lake Indians - managed by Mr. Bridges, owned a store at Ma-Me-O.

Antross Pine Cats - Anthonys mill

Columbia Beavers - manager - Harold Cambridge

Breton & Frasers Mill - managed by Mr. Carson

Strawberry Hill

Battle Lake

The Columbia Beavers put on a play to raise Club funds and took it to all of the centres, Breton, Winfield etc.



Skating Rink at Knob Hill - 1931

This skating rink was built on the creek back of Stones house and was the home rink of the Columbia Beavers. Stone house and post office is on the left up on the hill. In left defense position is Jock McFadden.



Some of the Columbia Beavers
1931 - 1935

Back Row: George Fontaine, Alfred Snell, next three unidentified, Otto Mattson, Harold Cambridge - Manager

Front Row: unknown, Clarence Reid, unknown, Louis Starr, unknown.



Some of the Columbia Beavers
1931 - 1935

Back: Harold Cambridge, George Fontaine, George Timothy, Burgess Fullerton, Otto Mattson, McKelvie.

Front: Clarence Reid, Cy Cook, remaining unidentified.

by Laura Cambridge.

MYNOR CAMPBELL - THE LAND OF PROMISE

During the land rush era, in the early nineteen hundreds, promoted jointly by the government and two of the largest land grant companies in Canada, Hudson's Bay Co. and the C.P.R., many residents of eastern Canada and the U.S.A., heeded an eastern statesman's advise to "go west, young man, go west" and immigrated to central Alberta.



Raymon, Glen and Mynor Campbell
on Old Joe, Homestead at Buck Lake
1911



A.J. & Martha Curry with
Grandson Glen Campbell - 1912

And so it was with the A.J. Curry family including sons-in-law, O.D. Campbell and family, and E. A. Smith and family. In the early spring of 1911 they left their homes in Nebraska and arrived in Wetaskiwin.

The C.P.R. made it known that the Co., had recently completed surveying for a railroad to tap the timber resources covering a large area from the north and west shores of Pigeon Lake and stretching in an unbroken line miles and miles on west to the Saskatchewan River. The rumor held a special appeal to immigrants from the plains of Nebraska, and all other factors considered, the Buck Lake area truly appeared to be the land of promise.

The men folk of the clan quickly rounded up a team of horses and with a wagon and supplies, trekked west and south to Hoadley. Leaving the wagon there, and packing their bed-rolls and supplies on the horses, they followed Ned Pocha, who packed in supplies and His Majesty's Mail up over the Hoadley trail to Minnehik. Mr. Tipping, the postmaster and owner of the small trading post, with Mrs. Tipping and children, Mary and Dalton, furnished the available supplies for the few residents surrounding the lake.

Two bachelors were living on the west side of Buck Lake, Mr. Mickle and a Mr. Coblin. On the east side lived the Pocha family, a Mr. Moon or Moonen, and the Grasser family. The Grasser place later became the Haggkvist property. On the eastern tip of Calhoun's bay the Heighington family owned and operated a small saw mill. This mill was the forerunner, if not in fact, the same mill later owned and operated a bit further to the west by Art Burrows. And in the same vicinity lived the Ames brothers. Originally three in number, one of them had gone hunting, never to return. A couple of years later, some of those still searching happened to find the bones of a moose carcass and those of a man lying side by side. And in the chamber of the very rusty rifle found close by, a spent cartridge pretty well told the story.

Obtaining a small row boat at Grasser's, A.J. Curry, son Ray and brother-in-law, Sheridan Beller, crossed the lake to search for land on the west side of Buck Lake. A.J. Curry located on $\frac{1}{2}$ section about one mile west of the lake. He secured this land by purchase using South African script, issued during the Boer War. it was negotiable. Fifteen years later this property became the sawmill site of Wilson and Sisson. Wilson affirmed this the winter of 1926-27 while working in the sawmill, he told me this property was still known locally as the Curry place.

Orie D. Campbell and E. P. Smith, on horseback, scouted the area west of Calhoun's bay. Campbell filing on SW $\frac{1}{4}$ 21 - 46 - 5 - 5 and Smith filed on the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ 20 - 46 - 5 - 5. The Campbell quarter was later cancelled and filed on by Joe Calhoun. The Smith quarter later

became the Jack Soles place.

From 1908 and for five years including 1913, the Ricker logging camp operated on the Poplar Creek. The camp site and log decks were a short way north of present day Norbuck siding. A short distance south, and below the confluence of the east and west branches of Poplar Creek, this logging company constructed a high earthen dam. From observation and what I heard the logging operations extended mostly to the east of Poplar Creek and a short distance south between the east and west forks of Poplar Creek. The logs were cut, hauled and decked along the creek bank throughout the winter and during the spring months the gates of the dam were alternately closed and opened, with each head of water carrying additional logs from the log decks, down the water eventually to arrive at the sawmill at Edmonton.

Many of the log cabins that dotted the early day landscape throughout the Poplar Creek area, were built by former loggers from Ricker's camp. Very few, if any staying in the area long enough to obtain a patent on their homesteads.

Legend has it that Ricker, a man known to take a drink now and then, on one occasion took a longing look at the shore line of Buck Lake, from a vantage point, quite a distance away. No doubt from Buck Mountain. He decided that here he could cut hay to feed his horse used for logging. So he set about cutting a trail through from his campsite on the Poplar Creek, west to Buck Lake only to find that what he thought to be meadows were in fact marshes covered with the usual coarse marsh grass and bull rushes.

Campbell and Smith, having completed their log cabins, set out cutting a trail a bit north, then east some three miles, then north across the north township line to Ricker's hay trail. This trail, known throughout the Calhoun bay settlement as the Campbell and Smith cut off served as the connecting link between the settlement and Wetaskiwin. At a later date, a part of this trail became a part of the Bear Creek lumber trail.

Serious illness and death in the Curry family resulted in the entire Curry clan returning to Nebraska in the year 1914. Where, no doubt due to World War I, we remained throughout its duration.

Campbell and Smith, for the second time, arrived in Wetaskiwin in the late fall of 1918. And once again they planned to seek suitable home sites in this vast timbered area, with its lakes and streams and abundant wild game. This land of promise. However, a fast talking promoter discouraged this idea and resulted in our several immigrant box cars being spotted on the side track at New Norway in March 1919.

From that summer on, most members of the Campbell and Smith families camped, fished, picked wild berries and hunted wild game from Battle Lake on west to Wolf Creek.

During the summer of 1920, while we were camped at Ricker's former logging camp site, Sanford and Mrs. Nelson and children Ruth, Sonny and Dot (Dorthy) came by team and wagon from their sawmill site a couple of miles east of the Poplar Creek on the north township line, to visit.

Later that fall, having come from New Norway with five teams and wagons, for all the lumber we could hope to get out east of Pigeon Lake with, I watched the Nelson sawmill in operation. With the help of one man in the mill the crew consisted entirely of members of the Nelson family. Ruth fired the steam engine and Sonny, using a steer, skidded logs onto the roll way and hauled an occasional barrel of water from a near by creek for the boiler.

That summer we went on west to Buck Lake on the north township line trail with its seemingly endless stretches of corduroy.

Herman Calhoun and his sister had returned to Oregon previous to the summer of 1920. Mr. Calhoun and Joe still lived at the bay. However they soon thereafter left never to return. Herman Calhoun did return several years later to start the summer resort on Calhoun's bay, still operating under different ownership.

This north township road, completed a few years earlier, was the achievement mostly of the Bunney and Nowells families, early day residents of Battle Lake in the Yeoford area. I recall Mr. Nowells, early day postmaster and operator of the Yeoford store, relating how he had spent his first years in the area cutting tamarac and building corduroy on the Buck Lake road and living chiefly on snow shoe rabbits. The over all life of the road, beside being of little use, was to be of short duration.

In 1923, a homesteader in the Poplar Creek area, while clearing land, let a fire get out of control resulting in the destruction of many sections of green prime timber along with large portions of corduroy that spanned the swamps, a high and somewhat rickety bridge over the Poplar Creek and the wooden gates and spillway of the dam.

The corduroy, built of tamarac poles and logs and laid atop three larger log stringers, became tinder dry and were an invitation to fire from whatever the source.

The spring of 1922 was extremely dry in the New Norway district, making pastures for

livestock in short supply and resulted in Campbell and Smith driving some 375 of neighborhood cattle and horses to summer pasture on Poplar Creek. In lieu of grazing permit they simply filed on a homestead in the name of Percy Smith, the oldest of the Smith boys. Each summer thereafter, we continued pasturing livestock in the Poplar Creek area and almost as soon as the Campbell and Smith boys became 18 years of age, we in turn filed on homesteads along the west fork of Poplar Creek. My turn came in 1926.

In 1925, with the completion of the connecting link of railroad, by the Alberta Gov't between Hoadley and Warburg, Winfield had its beginning. Near where the railway tressle spans the east Poplar Creek in a clump of jackpine, the first trading post was built. A small combination residence and store owned and operated by Mr. I. O. (all who could manage to, did) Gibbons.

With no thought of the coming depression and with rail transportation at hand, Winfield became a boom town, several large sawmills started operating close by, and a large amount of lumber came from sawmills around and beyond Buck Lake came into Winfield by four horse teams and left via the railroad.

Even through out the depression years, Winfield's ability to survive several disasterous fires and to rebuild was due chiefly to its strategic location.

With the depletion of the forests both by man and successive forest fires, by the late 1940s Winfield having lost its bid for its location for the community hospital, to a more prosperous neighboring town, faced the unsavory prospects of becoming little more than a ghost town.

Oil exploration and drilling happening when it did gave Winfield a much needed if somewhat temporary lift.

The consolidation of the schools by the Provincial government remains the sustaining hope for Winfield, if not to expand, at least to maintain its present status for at least the foreseeable future. However, consideration of a few time proven facts that apply to this land of promise could cause grave doubts, should Winfield continue to base its only hope on the continuing quantity of this areas most priceless product, its children. Repeatedly it has been proven that an area that fails to retina a given portion of its youth has little chance of normal growth or prosperity.

Sitting astride a high divide or plateau which drains south to the Blindman, east via the Battle River and north from Buck Lake and Twin Lakes and even thwarts the eastern course of the Saskatchewan River causing it to detour nearly 100 miles to the north. Due, at least partly to its elevation, the climatic conditions that prevail throughout this area are extremely temperamental and completely unpredictable. The early settlers discovered the hard way that this land was not suitable for grain farming. The one and only reliable crop that could be grown is hay, and a hay crop, with excessive rain through out the haying season can at times become nearly, a total loss. Mechanization also dealt a blow to the hay rancher, decreasing the demand, forcing those who wished to remain, to depend on livestock. Anyone that has seen or studied the population growth of a large area devoted to livestock as its main source of income, and come up with a fair guess what the future has in store for the rancher or stockman in this area.

The hope that springs eternal, the hope that motivates us all, is more durable in some than others and too, none can become so misguided or mistaken as he who is sincerely wrong. Of the ten Campbell and Smith family members who had filed on homesteads in the Buck Lake and Poplar Creek area from 1911 through the 1920's, it appears that I was the exception. For over 20 years this was my home, always with the hope that next year would prove to be a better year, in some small measure bring about a favorable change in climatic conditions and at last allow this land of promise to commence to become self sustaining to those who tilled the soil.

In 1928, with a provincial election coming up I was able to get a few names of interested neighbors on a petition requesting financial aid to open up a new road from Hendrigan's corner on west. The incumbent M. P. seeking re-election, cutting down the mileage asked for in the petition from five and a half to two and one half miles, did get and send us the promise of \$250, to clear the right of way and ditch one mile of swamps. Of this grant, matched by great odds of donated labor the Campbell brothers received \$133.00.

The number of children of school age, required by law, residing in an area desiring to form a new school district, was seven. In 1929, there were enough families living then in Poplar Valley area, enabling us to qualify. The school district was formed and the first school house of logs was erected by donation labor. Paying school taxes, which ranged from \$10 to \$15 per $\frac{1}{4}$ of land proved a definite hardship, but pay them we did. At the time of Consolidation of the schools by the provincial government the Poplar Valley school district had the rare distinction of being one of the very few school districts of being solvent.

Getting married and raising a family, as many of us early day settlers did in the early years of depression proved to be an experience equal to the hardships of any frontier settlement. The children of the settler's were born at home, with or without the aid of the Provincial district nurse, residing at Pendryl, and conveyed, when and where ever needed, by day and by

night through mud or snow, by wagon or on horseback to where needed. Our four children, born on my homestead, commenced their schooling at Poplar Valley school.

Time moved steadily on, however the economic plight of the settler who depended chiefly on tilling the soil, lagged far behind. No where have I been able to find in the bible just when God created time. To some the subject may seem debatable, but on one point I feel we must agree regarding time. He certainly made a lot of it. I believe that much, much more of this said time will be required ere this land of promise evolves into a land of plenty. Even to the limited extent as has its surrounding neighbor area.

Having reached the retirement years of life, perhaps it will be my good fortune to return once again for a final visit with former friends and neighbors and the few remaining descendants of early day settlers still living in this land of promise that I once knew and loved so well.

The school teachers that I remember were (not necessarily in order) -Deveda Drader later married George Stady now living in Edmonton. Ruth Buck, later married Glen Mordine now of Camrose, Myrtle Sornsen, later married Drell Smith now of Armstrong, B.C., Miss Grass. A man teacher whose name I don't recall, also a young lady teacher whose name I don't recall, and Mrs. Donald Day, whose maiden name I don't recall.

The settlers residing in the Poplar Valley School District at the time the S.D. was formed were: Ernie Ayers & family, Carson Bardenhagen & Family, Bill Bodenham, Fred Brawn, Mynor Campbell, Baymon Campbell, Charlie Clemmer & family, Eric Collings, Orin Day & family, Tom Deval & Family, Carl Demars, George & Mrs. Dewar, Harry Dewar, Earl MacKenzie, Lou Henrigan, Jessee James, Gus Janke, Ed Janke, Eric Johnson & family, Bert Kluczny & family, Andy Liner, Ole Lund, Jerval Maddox, Gust Svenson, Drell Smith, Carroll Smith, Percy Smith, Wm. Steer, Mr. Turnbull Sr., Sandy Turnbull and Bill Turnbull.

WILLIAM CAPANUIK

Mr. and Mrs. William Capanuik came to Montreal, Canada in 1914. They settled in Lamont, Alberta, and later in 1932 moved to Alder Flats, Alberta where they homesteaded. Mr. Capanuik was married to the former Annie Forchuk in Austria in 1909. Mrs. Annie Capanuik had three brothers who came to Alder Flats around the same time to homestead. Those surviving are Alex Forchuk of Alder Flats, George Forchuk of Willington, Alberta. John Forchuk of Alder Flats is deceased. Mr. Capanuik had no brothers or sister out here.

They homesteaded the farm presently owned by their son's James and John. The old log house they first lived in is still located on the farm.

From the marriage of William and Annie Capanuik were four children: Pearl Walters of Pendryl, Max, John and James of Alder Flats.

VICTOR CARLSON

Vic and Estella moved on to their homestead quarter the SW 31 - 45 - 5 - 5 on the 20th of May 1940. This formerly had been Cliff Bergs homestead. There were only about ten acres broke on this land when they arrived here. It was difficult to eke out a living and build a successful farm from such modest beginnings. In 1954 they bought a half section from Mrs. E. Strinnholm and moved on to this place in 1955, where they still reside.

Vics' first trip to this area was in or around 1931. His brother Fred was already living here as were the Bradbury's who were also old acquaintances. It was hot and dry in the Camrose area that summer when Vic and three friends started for Buck Lake in Vics' Model "T". They spent one night at Battle Lake with the Fontaine's. From there on they had to push the car through axle deep mud. The balance of the trip took four days. As they neared their destination Vic remembers asking direction of Mr. Strinnholm who was breaking land with a wooden beam plow and walking the furrow in bare feet. The young men had a good holiday and found when they left the mud of Buck Lake behind there was still drought at home.

ED CARRUTHERS

In November of 1934 my father and mother, Mr. and Mrs. Ed Carruthers and Bill Gooler and I came from Vulcan to the John Nelson homestead along the Blindman River, better described as down in the "hills". We were looking for land and finally settled on the south side. We spent the summer here working and building. A cousin, Robert Larson stayed to look after our team for the winter. My wife Audrey and I moved up to stay in 1939. Although we never did go back to the homestead we have lived in the district continually and have raised a family of nine. I worked at trucking over the years until 1968 when we started hauling the mail between Winfield and Alder Flats six days a week.

Earl, our eldest married Rene Ferguson - (Rene Deceased) they have one child, Dean. Earl remarried, Linda Hardin, they have one child, Becky and live in Edmonton. Glen married Carol Langmuir, have two children, Ricky and Wendy, live in Edmonton, Glen drives a truck for the C.N.R. Walter, a truck driver lives in Grande Prairie, Ruth married Dan Donald, have two children, Terry and Timothy live at Winfield. Darlene, married Raymond Hardin, have three children, Dion, Dean and Darwin, live at Falun. Shirley, married Curt Luykfassel, have two children, Billy-Joe and Patricia, live in Edmonton where Curt is an Instrument Technician for the Government. Danny, Sherry and Dale live at home and attend Winfield school.

by Audrey Carruthers.

ART CARTIER

We moved out here in the winter of '44. In fact, we finished moving on April 19th. We moved everything with horses and sleighs from our former home, Millet, which was 50 miles from here. We decided to move because our four oldest boys were pretty well grown up and they all wanted farms. The land around Millet was so high priced we could not afford to buy any. We found out the land was so cheap here, so we came out and bought them each one farm. The oldest, Alfred, was still in the army at the time. He said if we liked it here, it would suit him too.

The first summer we were here we had an awful lot of rain and all the bridges between our place and town went out with the high water. We had a creek on our place that we had to cross to get to the main road and the bridge went out of that too. The men went down there discussing what to do. They decided to build a raft to take the cream across. In the meantime, three or four neighbors came along wondering what to do. They all helped build the raft; put the cream cans, harnesses and the stone boat on the raft and took them across the creek. The horses just happened to be on that side, in a pasture. They harnessed the horses, hooked them to the stoneboat and took everything to the next creek. There they unhooked the horses, rafted everything across the creek, swam the horses across, borrowed the neighbors wagon and went on to town.

Our third son, Tom, didn't like it very good out here at first. He said that morning, "I always did say they should have left this country to the Indians!" He was going back to Millet but when he got to Winfield, he found that some of the bridges were out between here and Millet. There was no train running so he had to wait until the roads were fixed.

After the men left for town, I went out to feed the chickens, there were a few on the roosts and the rest were wading in about six inches of water. There was a lot of water that came down the hill and there happened to be a hole in the back of the chicken house where the water came in. The front side was so tight the water couldn't get out, so the boys had to dig a hole under it to let the water out.

That summer, we went everywhere on horse back. That's when I learned to ride again after 20 years.

The first year we were here, we had a real good crop of clover and it set seed very well. Everyone who came and saw it, said we should cut it for seed. But we didn't know anything about growing seed and as we had quite a few cows, the men all thought we needed it more for feed, so they cut it green for hay. Sure lost a lot of money that year!!!!

The next year, they sowed some more and kept it for seed. They figured they had about \$5,000.00 worth. The first day they started to thresh, a big hail storm came up real fast. They

were too busy to notice it; just had 4 sacks threshed out when it came. They drove the horses close to the machine and left them stand. The men got under the threshing machine for protection. Some of the stones were as big as walnuts. One team ran away and tipped the rack off. Another broke the tongue out of the wagon and one ran into the wire fence and then stopped. That ended the threshing for that year. The seed was all on the ground.

One year, when we had our second bridge, the water got real high. Art and I were going to town by car. It had rained just a little so the planks were wet. One pier had gone out from under the bridge. The car started to slide sideways and when we got across, we looked at the tracks. The wheel on the low side had been about 2 inches from the end of the planks. I was so scared when we went across, I nearly died. Hope I never have to go through that again.

When we first got out here, there was just a bachelor shack on the place. The boys slept in the garage until fall, when we built a temporary piece on the house. A few years later, we built a new home.

The post office was in Winfield and a man by the name of Sid Carter was Postmaster.

The first school was Poplar Valley and the teacher was Ruth Grass

There were two stores in Winfield when we came, John Harmacy's and Mrs. Sabin's. Close neighbors were Kluezny's, Walsh's, Hendrigan's, Dyvig's, Abbott's, Gilbert Nelson's, Elmer Nelson's, H. Swanson's, Maier's and Mynor Campbell's.

Farming conditions were good but not much land was cleared. The water supply was good and lovely soft water. It came from a spring and we carried it up the hill for 10 years or more. Many neighbors had flowing wells, so one day Art decided to drill for water about 3 feet from the house. He struck a flowing well at 30 feet. If he had known that, he would have drilled there the first year.

For entertainment, there were box socials and dances in the school and the hall in town; club meetings and lots of visiting. We had just as good a time then as now and it didn't cost so much. In summer, the whole district turned out practically every Sunday for baseball and picnics. And there was always the Buck Lake Stampede.

One time when we were going to sell a horse, we put him in the truck and tied him in there. He made a big jump, landed on the cab of the truck, then fell off and took the whole top rack off the truck with him.

Our children are: Alfred; Leo; Thomas; Emile; Agnes; Dan; Phyllis and Shirley. When they started to get married, there was one every year, then three in one years time. All but two, married girls and boys from out here. One neighbor said we were related to everybody in the valley but him. We now have 42 grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren.

by Mrs. Art (Mary) Cartier.

ALFRED CARTIER

In 1947 Clarice Nelson, second youngest daughter of Bessie and Gilbert Nelson, wed Alfred Cartier, eldest son of Art and Mary Cartier (formerly of Millet). Alfred rented Lucy Johnson's farm, SW 19 - 46 - 5 - 5, and we lived there for about two and a half years. We used to pump water with a dog wheel for three cows, a dozen chickens, a few sheep and pigs, and six horses.

The first two or three winters Alfred hauled mine props into Winfield, which were hauled away by train. He also worked for Letourneaus in the bush cutting down trees.

After the two and a half years we moved across the road onto our own place, SE 24 - 46 - 5 - 5, (formerly owned by Jessie James) which was a hundred and sixty acres of solid bush. We lived in a little house 12 x 16 which grew as the family grew. In December 1957 we moved into our new house.

We have nine children, Ted (23), Wade (19), Yvonne (18), Rocky (16), Betty (15), Susan (14), Peggy (13), Mark (9) and Teresa (6).

Ted, the oldest son was married to Aline Houde, the fourth child of Marie and Raymond Houde of Debden, Saskatchewan, on February 12, 1971 and are now making their home in Hinton with their son, Richard Theodore, born December 7th, 1971.



"Dog Wheel"



Alfred Cartier with
son Ted



Alfred Cartier
Hauling mine props to Winfield.

HANS CHRISTENSEN

It was in the fall of 1937 when Hans Christensen and I first came out to Buck Lake. Mrs. Dorothy Doyle (my brother Bill's wife) was the Buck Lake school teacher that year, and I came to look after her two children, Donna and Richard, during the day. One day, a stranger dropped in and asked for a meal; I gave it to him, hoping all the while that he was more of a gentleman than he looked. He was hiking it from Alder Flats to Winfield where bus and train transportation out, began.

I'll never forget the bus ride from Wetaskiwin to Winfield. It was raining the whole trip; the Greyhound was crowded to begin with but every time it stopped to let one off, two more got on. "Oh, sure, as long as you can find standing room, come along," said the jolly bus driver, "the more the merrier and I may need you all to push." He did! Hans says he can remember about a dozen of them had to pick the bus right up to put it back on the road again. Believe me, we were glad to hear that we would have to stay in Winfield until daylight at least.

The next day, we located a truck driver willing to take us out to Doyle's. "Minnehik" the land of many trees, the Indians called it. I see that now the timber is missing, with only poplar bluffs in their place, the name has been changed to Buck Lake.

Hans and I were not married then so we took in all the dances and parties of all kinds. We spent Christmas down on the Wolf River with Bill and Helen Bohning, my sister. It was quite an experience for me to go squirrel hunting with the boys, tramping through the snow and eating a frozen sandwich under a sheltering pine; but I liked the smell of the trees. Hans worked at Ollie Berquist's mill near Alder Flats after New Years. I worked for Margaret Inglis, who at that time was taking care of her uncle, Jack, and running his store for him.

We returned to Vermilion and were married in June; then farmed my folks place until May 1939. Han's brother, Harold, came over from Denmark in time to help Hans trek across country with two hayracks of farm machinery and feed. I followed in Herman Walter's truck when he took the load of pigs and chickens out a couple of weeks later. We pulled into Mum and Pop Bohning's just ahead of the boys.

Harold was taking over the reclaimed homestead of old Coblin who had died during the winter. We made our home with Harold as there were no buildings on the quarter section of bushland we rented. However, there was a fenced in, but unnamed, babies grave in a clearing. This land once belonged to Engles, I believe, it was just south of Mr. Peterson's and north of Mr. Simmon's sheep farm.

Mr. Emil Coblin must have been a remarkable handy man to put in so many years building up a two story house of logs on his homestead. There wasn't a nail in the whole house barn or even the rail fence surrounding the property. Hand carved wooden pegs driven in by a wooden mallet were used instead. His furniture was all hand carved also, even the rolling pin, large wooden bowl that I used for bread making and butter mixing. The three legged, red stools I have never seen the like of before or since, were round slabs cut from a Jack Pine log, scooped out to fit one's behind, and far more comfortable than they looked. His easy chairs and bed were made from tanned hides. We used these odd but surprisingly comfortable bits of

furniture for three years.

Three weeks after our arrival, our first son was born in this house. Mrs. Fred Doyle was in attendance first, but when she saw all was not well, sent for the nurse. Mom Bohning, the local midwife, came to stand by until the Pendryl nurse was brought into Minnehik. Wilfred Anderson rowed Nurse Helen Garfield across the lake as it was much faster than by road. So it is these three ladies and Bill Bohning's fishing ice that I have to thank for a continued life.

I loved our view of the lake, but that's about all I like about living so far from my family. Our two closest neighbors, both old bachelors, were poor company for a lonely girl of 21. The mile of solid corduroy road passed Ed Young's, Roy McKay's and Durant's and through dense timber didn't encourage me to venture out either.

Old Joe Dustal lived about a mile north of us along the lake shore. He made the best smoked fish I ever ate. His dog "mine boy" fetched the wood. Whenever he did wrong he was scolded with these words from Joe, "The trouble with you, mine boy, is you don't listen to Papa." Joe and his dog were both still living when we left in 1942.

One day, I carried 12 pounds of butter, packed in wet newspaper and gunnysacks, walking all the three miles down to the Minnehik store where Mrs. Smith paid me 9¢ a pound for it. "I've tried it so I know it is good butter, otherwise I wouldn't buy it," she told me. There was little sale for home-made butter as everyone seemed to have their own or went without. I got the necessary salt, coffee, and sugar, then enjoyed a cup of coffee with the Bohning's before I trudged back home.

Our water supply was carried up quite a steep hill, two pails at a time, dangling from a yoke across our shoulders. We swallowed the wee fish and sea weed as part of our Buck Lake drinking water. Our entertainment was the radio or cards in the evening with very few visitors, summer or winter. In fact, it was so lonesome that I couldn't remain.

Forest fires were bad in those days. I remember one in particular where both Hans and his brother were out fighting one in the timber just south of our place. The hot ashes from it were flying and dropping in our yard and I was afraid a spark would start the hay by the barn on fire so I packed up a few treasures and my son to sit on the lakeshore till evening when the wind died down a bit. I ventured back to the house hoping that if the worse was to come, someone would at least see my light. My neighbor to the west also sought comfort that night. Being braver than I, she packed her youngsters with a few belongings to walk the mile and a half or two, to our house. How glad I was to see Mrs. Kukurusniak (Mrs. Adams now). We bedded the kiddies down and put the coffee pot on. We could hear the cry of "Timber" as the cross-cut saws downed the big trees to send them crashing into the flames which shot up in to the sky with sparks flying in every direction. Fire guards were cut and patrolled to check the fire the best way they could. There were some water pumps bringing water from the lake mostly by team and stoneboat was used for the fire brigade at that time.

The men soon came in for coffee. Some stayed long enough to eat but others rushed back to relieve someone else. I don't think any of us adults had a wink of sleep that night; but we knew the danger was past by morning.

Wilfred was not quite three years old when we left the following spring before fire season; and I have only been back twice for very short visits. In 1957, Wilfred and another son, Allan, came by car to Goldie and Wilfred Anderson's. We tried to get up to see Wilfred's birthplace but a "No Trespassing" sign near an oilwell on the place stopped us. We heard later that Alberta Parker and her husband were living on the place then. Much of the timber was still standing. The roads were much improved but we found them terrible yet.

I was out there just recently to attend the Oldtimer's reunion. Hans took sick on the way so remained in the hospital at Ponoka. Our second son, Harvey, and his wife from Calgary took me out by car. It rained and rained for two days in true old-time Buck Lake fashion. It did clear for Sunday's gathering; but I'm sure we brought back a very good sample of good old Buck Lake mud.

by Ethel M. Christensen.

TED & BILL CHURCHILL

These two brothers arrived in Winfield district in 1930. They took up homesteads NE 34 - 45 - 4 - 5, and SE 1/4 34 - 45 - 4 - 5. Bill left the district but Ted stayed on. He cleared his land by hand, kept a few hives of bees and owned a percheron stallion.

This stallion, the only one in the district, he travelled with. This was the only way of replenishing the horse crop which was used as power at this time.



Ted Churchill
with his Percheron stallion.

Ted married Jean McGregor in 1951. They stayed on the homestead several years then moved to Bentley and Lacombe districts where he died March 17, 1967.

Jean now lives in the Edmonton district.

R. CLEMMER -- THE ROAD AND THE PEOPLE

As I remember Going West From Winfield in - - 1926

Now Winfield was only one store, not even a post office. It was owned and run by Mr. I. O. Gibbons. It was called the Winfield Trading Co. Mrs. Gibbons ran an eating place as well. It made no difference how large or small your bill of groceries, you always got a bag of hard candy from Mr. Gibbons.

Leaving Winfield, you had to go under the railway bridge as you do now, but much more winding road for the first mile than now. When you crossed the range line, the first place was George Schriggley's. He was a Spanish American War veteran, and a logger from the early days logging at Norbuck, when logs were floated down Poplar Creek to Edmonton. George was always seen with a halter and a pail of oats, looking for his grey mare that had no respect for a fence.

The next place was what was called the King place, later bought by Jim McNaughton. I never saw Mr. King but I was told he was one of the loggers from Norbuck too. By the way, there was a real bad stretch of road along here, never seemed to get dry.

Now down the "Jefferson Hill". In later years, when lumber was hauled by truck, there was always a load or two of lumber piled up at the bottom. The hill was named Jefferson as a young boy named Georgie Jefferson homesteaded there. He had a house and barn on the east bank of the creek. Some may remember this house, as it looked like most of the house had been sawed off.

On the west bank of the creek lived Mr. and Mrs. Brown, called the "Daddy Brown Place". He was one of the loggers too, moved on this place in 1912. They milked a lot of cows and raised a big garden.

It was here on the school section where the road forked and got bad. You could go south by trail to the Tom Devall and Sid Handbury places. Both places always had a lovely garden. The graded road then went south west. And this is where our old Model T got its first pull by Orin Day, who lived just across the next creek on a place called the Prince place. It was the noon stop for the stage between Yeoford and Minnehik. That was the name of the Buck Lake Post Office, then. A lot of people made this place an all night stop too. It was here that they had a ball diamond, that always drew quite a crowd on Sundays.

The road then stayed to the high ground and south of the present day road, until you were about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile east of the Hendrigan corner. On your left was Bill Steer's place. He also was one of the early loggers. He was a very large man and drove a nice white team. His dog was part Airdale and no one's friend but Bill's.

At Bill's gate, there was a long line of mail boxes where a trail came in from the north west. They were for the homesteaders of what was later called Poplar Valley. They were Olie Lund, a bachelor who returned to Wetaskiwin about 1945. Then the Weise brothers, Mat and Bill, a big support to the ball team. My father and mother took the homestead next to them. It had been homesteaded before by a man named Cook. He left a nice log cabin for us. There were the Smith boys, who were mostly summer residents, Jim and Carol.

Then across the creek was Carson Bardinagen who had to leave because there was no school. And we had Jessie James, a first war veteran, he was found dead in his house about 1943. The Eric Johnsons at the top of the hill; this place is still in the family, and the Bert Kluezny family. Son Walter is still on this place. These people on the west side of

Poplar Creek had to build a bridge across the creek each spring, sometimes twice.

Now back to the main road. You went south from Hendrigans corner. It has a much different look now. Then, in Hendrigan's yard, there was not a tree to be seen, only a one room house sat on the knoll.

Going on south, was the Turnbull brothers, Sandy and Bill. Their father used to come and stay with them in the summer. The road then went west for $\frac{1}{2}$ mile before going south again past the George Dewar place. Mrs. Dewar was known by everyone as Grandma Dewar and Harry Dewar was captain of the ball team. I will always remember the Dewar's as being so kind to their horses, never saw one of them thin.

To the south of Dewar's was the Shamp's with a half mile of trail to the house and a wet half mile it was then. I don't remember too much of the road or the people west of here at that time. But after a couple of years, I found out there were some nice girls further west.

I came to Alberta from Wisconsin, U. S. A. with my father and mother in July 1926. My father homesteaded the land that is now owned by Poplar Valley Pentecostal Church. I kept this land until 1958.

My father, Charles Clemmer passed away in June 1952, my mother in 1956. Both are laid to rest in Poplar Valley Cemetery.

I married one of those nice girls from the west, Pendryl, to be exact, Allene Fraser in October 1935. We raised 7 boys in this country.

Alan married Beverly Seely. They have three children: Cindy, Denise and Nyle. They live at Swan Hills where Alan is field foreman for Amco, Canada.

Clare married Melba Proudley. They have four children, Connie, Heather, Cathy and Scott. They live at Wainwright where Clare works for Husky Oil Co.

Paul married Carol Thronson and has 2 children, RaeAnn and Richard. They live on the farm near Alder Flats.

Dale is married to Carol Herron and has one daughter, Dahanna. They make their home at Drayton Valley. He is a chemical salesman for Travechem Services.

Bruce is married to Donna Jenkins. They live in Drayton Valley and Bruce works for Mobile Oil.

Neil married Barbara Loomis and has one child, Dodie Lynn. He works for Beller Construction at Swan Hills where they make their home.

Shane lives at home with his parents at Alder Flats and attends Alder Flats school.

by Richard Clemmer

TED CHAPIN

Life Around Norbuck

My father, Mr. James Ing, arrived first at Norbuck in 1931. He got a job at Nelsons mill and worked all summer. In the fall he came back and told us what a nice country it was so we decided to come up to Norbuck too. You could get homesteads here at that time and my Dad had applied for his before he came back.

My husband, Ted Chapin, and my Dad brought all the stock and household things by train and landed at Norbuck, then had to find some place to put them. Ted looked around and found a big empty barn across a canyon about three miles east of Norbuck. There was an old log house on one side of the canyon and the barn on the other. He enquired about the farm with the log house on and found he could get it, but a cancellation had to go against it and it would take ninety days before he could legally locate on it. We had planned to move into the house as the man who owned it was in the states and didn't want it anyway. In the meantime another family (Lawrence Prentice's) moved in. We had no place to go except a little shack about ten by twelve on Mr. Duncan's farm. That winter my Dad, my Mother, Ted, our two little girls, and myself all lived in that little shack. We had a bed each side of the table, and shelves above the beds for the children, our suitcases etc. Our little girl Pearl called it our suitcase house. We had a cook stove and an airtight heater and a barrel of water in the other end of the shack. I can remember I had four feet of space to work, and my Mother had to sit on the bed most of the time.



Ted Chapin
Pearly and Joyce

It was about one mile from the shack up to the barn where we had the stock, so we often said we had to kiss the men goodbye when they went up to the barn.

The next April, the cancellation came through and Ted went and filed on the homestead with the log house. We moved into that and Prentice's moved into the shack we moved out of. Ted took a load of furniture both ways. The barn was just across the canyon, which I have often heard referred to as the Chapin canyon. I'm sure many of the old timers will remember it as many were stuck in the mud going up the hill. Sometimes after a rain we kept a team harnessed just in case some one needed a pull.

In the late fall of 1932, Ted went back to the prairie and brought his Dad, George Chapin, to Norbuck. They drove all the way with two wagons with hayracks. They brought horses and cattle and camped out. It took them over a week to get home, from the Prairie farm near the Saskatchewan border at Altario.

We had one very bad time when the fires were so near. One Sunday the fire came just across the road, and then on Tuesday it swept down the canyon and our whole yard was on fire. We kept one man hauling water from a spring and pumped water on the old log house trying to save it. Frasers and Burrows mills sent cars up to get anyone who would go where it had burned over before and it was safe. We stayed as long as we could but finally had to leave. We went over to O'Briens and later were surprised to see the house still standing. When it got dark it looked like a town. Every stump in the yard was on fire. We went back to the house but didn't sleep very much that night as we were afraid it still might start up.

We had two girls Pearl and Joyce. They were quite small when we first came to Norbuck. The school was built soon after and Pearl's first teacher was Mr. Stewart.

Norbuck was our closest postoffice and store. It was three miles away. I often carried groceries and Joyce (when she was a baby) all that way home.

We had many good times with concerts and dances in the Norbuck school. We also went to Knob Hill and Wenham Valley. We drove with horses and sleighs or wagon if there was no snow.

Mr. Duncan was a close neighbor, also Alec Hays, they were both bachelors. Mr. Duncan later had a store where we could get a few groceries at his place. This is the farm that Walter Ing and family now live on.

Roads began to get better and farming got easier as time went on. But hauling logs, sawdust and lumber were the main things that men could get wages for.

Our son, Ted Junior, was born while we were still on the farm. He was born at Rimbeys hospital as at that time it was our closest hospital. He with his wife and family now live near Breton. Ted Senior died in 1960, he had served nearly twenty years in the Canadian Army, during the war overseas and in the peace time in Canada.

I live in Edmonton now. The family is all grown up and married. Pearl and her husband live in Edmonton too and she is a Grandmother too. Joyce with her husband and family live in British Columbia. So I am now both Grandmother and a Great Grandmother.

by Hetty Chapin.

PERCY FRANK COLLISSON

Percy Frank Collisson, born at Sittingborn County, England on January 27th, 1888 and passed away August 21, 1963.

Mrs. Pearl (Penley) Collisson was born at Orillia, Ontario on June 12th, 1882 and passed away June 9, 1968.

Frank and Pearl Penley were married in 1914. In 1915 he went to war overseas and returned in 1918, they lived at Kelfield, Saskatchewan but couldn't stand the wind so came to Alberta.

They came to the Knob Hill district in 1924, renting Frank Jones house at Wenham Valley, residing there till they moved to their own homestead on NE 28 - 46 - 3 - 5. They were blessed with four children. Two sons, Pat and Bill who were both in World War Two, and two daughters Wahnita, born in Kelfield and Bessie born at Knob Hill.

I, Gertrude Leslie, was born and raised, until 11 years of age, at Purple Springs, Alta. and moved to Bonnyville with my folks. I worked at Elk Point and Edmonton where I met Bill Collisson. We were married in Hamilton, Ontario on August 27th, 1941. Bill went overseas and I returned to Edmonton to work. On his return we moved to Winfield in 1947. We lived with Jim and Wahnita and while there lost everything in a fire.

Bill's father and mother moved to Edmonton where they lived until he passed away. Mother returned to a house built on the farm until her death. Mr. Collisson Sr. had been a marvellous gardener, both vegetables and flowers, also small fruits. He thoroughly enjoyed this, he always gave to the needy but never sold any.



Collisson Family

Standing : Percy (Dad), Pat, Bill, Mom
Sitting : Grandma, Grandpa, Bessie and Wahnita.



Jennie - Dad's favourite

Mule, their horse with Grace Powell holding the team.

Bill and I have four children - Milton (Buster), Alvin, Nita and Charles. Bill's brother Pat married Shirley Martin May 24, 1950, and they have six children - Barry, Patricia, Christine, Kenneth, Willie and Robert. They live at Cultus Lake, B.C. Wahnita married Jim Clark on December 24, 1942 and they have four children - Jimmy, Paul, Doug and Heather. They live on their homestead across the road from Bill. Bessie married Irwin Martin, June 10, 1950 and they have six children - Wendy, Laura, Kenneth, Ernie, Donnie and Jerry. On June 19th, 1967 Wendy, Donnie and Jerry were drowned. Bessie and her remaining three children now live at Knob Hill.

Reminiscing, we remember we children going to Wenham Valley and Seattle schools. Enjoyed going to talk to Doc Covey daily on the way to school, playing tug of war etc. One time a slender boy got a rope twisted around him and nearly was cut in two before the teacher came to his rescue.

We went to Wetaskiwin for our first binder with a team of mules (Rock and Jenny) bought from Orton Hannah. He had brought them up from Coronation. When those old mules died, part of Dad died too. They used to scare people with their braying.

Also recall Ed Moyer always making big suppers at Seattle Community Hall or in his house - Saurkraut and weiners or noodle suppers which he cooked himself.

Mrs. Chinell Sr. found Bill crying one day, finding out he had lost his sandwiches, she made him more. She was always doing something kind for the children.

by Gertie and Bill Collisson.

CONROY CLUB - LADIES AUXILIARY

The Pendryl Poplar Valley Nurses Auxiliary was formed in the early 1930's for the ladies of the district. It was organized by Miss Phillips the district nurse at the time who later became Mrs. Bill Turnbull and lived on the SW 9 - 46 - 4 - 5.

Miss Phillips was the first President and Mrs. Ben Stady was the Secretary-Treasurer. The purpose of this organization was to serve the community, help needy families, and

making layettes for new babies, etc.

Early members are shown and listed in the pictures which are shown on this and the following pages,

The Nurses Auxiliary continued in their great help to the surrounding country. From 1954 to 1957 they joined the Women's Institute.

In 1957, the organization decided to withdraw from the W.I. and donate our time and help in our own community and was called the "Conroy Club" in honor of Miss Amy L. Conroy our long time district nurse and to whom this book is dedicated.

We are now a very active Club with twenty-three members.

Each year we have an Old Time Country Fair held at Buck Lake, give a \$25.00 scholarship to a grade nine student at Winfield School, donate to fire victims, unwed mothers, Winfield Library, Cancer, Red Cross, Salvation Army and many other worthwhile casues.

Each year at Christmas we give a potted plant or cut flowers to our past and present senior members: Mrs. Joe Betlamini, Mrs. Marie Herman, Mrs. Marcella Kluczny, Mrs. Wm. Thomas, Mrs. Mary Walsh, Mrs. Alice Abbott, Mrs. Mary Cartier, Mrs. Bill Johnston, Mrs. Harold Hellervik and Mrs. Gilbert Nelson.

Present members now in 1972 are: Mrs. I. (Harold) Hellervik, Mrs. Mary (Art) Cartier, Sr., Mrs. Marcella (Bert) Kluczny, Mrs. Posy (Frank) Willows, Mrs. Agnes (Edward) Abbott, Mrs. Doreen (Ken) Hallervik, Mrs. Pat (Gordon) Florence, Mrs. Margaret (Norman) Dunn, Mrs. Darlene (Harvey) Sharp, Mrs. Clarice (Alfred) Cartier, Mrs. Joyce (Emile) Cartier, Mrs. Judy (Don) Goodkey, Mrs. Isabell (Bob) Willows, Mrs. Winnie (David) Willows, Mrs. Mildred (Jack) Goodkey, Mrs. Mary (Jim) Peterson, Mrs. Anne (John) DeLyster, Mrs. Vi (Samuel) Peterson, Mrs. Daphne (Dick) Betlamini, Mrs. Lucy (Martin) Betlamini, Mrs. Shirley (Harvey) Long, Mrs. Florence (Harold) Woodward and Mrs. Janet (Victor) Engblom.



Pendryl - Poplar Valley
Nurses Auxilliary - about 1940 Mrs.
B. Stady, Victoria Betlamini, Mrs.
F. Brawn, Mrs. J. Betlamini, Mrs.
M. Walsh, Mrs. G. Dewar, Mrs. L.
Hendrigan

Bottom Row: Mrs. G. Fraser, Mrs.
Armitage, Mrs. Kluczny, next 2 unknown,
Fraser



Nurses Auxilliary Christmas Party
- 1943 -

Men L. to R.: Jack Goodkey, Charles Long, Wm.
Thomas, C.B. Long, Harvey Long.

Women L. to R.: Mrs. Jack Goodkey, Mrs. Bob
Willows, Mrs. Wm. Thomas, Mrs. Ben Stady,
Miss Amy Conroy, Mrs. Wm. Goodkey, Mrs.
Gus Bjur.

Children: Margaret Goodkey, Daphne Thomas.



Nurses Auxilliary Members
- 1944 -

L. to R.: Mrs. Irwin, Vicky Betlamini,
Mrs. Kluczny, Agnes Cartier, Mrs. M.
Dunn, Delia Letourneau, Ines Bjur, Mrs.
Stady, Mrs. Letourneau, Mrs. Betlamini,
Mrs. Bjur, Mrs. Woodward, Mrs. Thomas,
Hazel Scherlie in doorway.



Nurses Auxilliary about - 1931

Back Row: Mrs. Tipping, Mrs. Inglis,
Mrs. Kluczney, next 2 unknown,
Mrs. G. Stratton, next 4 unknown,
Mrs. Stady, Mrs. Clemmer, unknown,
Mrs. Bjur, Miss Phillips.

Centre: unknown, Sylvia O'Meara,
holding Blaine, Mrs. Shamp, Mrs.
G. Berg, Mrs. C.B. Long, Delva
Tolly, Mrs. Lou Hendrigan.

Bottom: Ronnie O'Meara, Mrs. Ri-
ver, Hazel O'Meara, unknown, Emma
Fraser, Astrid Bjur.



Nurses Auxilliary - about - 1950

Back Row: Martha Hansen, Posy Willows, Mildred
Goodkey, Hazel Fraser, Mildred Grierson, unknown.

Centre row: Margaret Willows, Lucy Betlamini,
Marion Nelson, Mrs. M. Walsh.

Front Row: Isabell Willows, Effie Miers, Mrs. Fraser
Senior.



Nurses Auxilliary about 1934

Mrs. C.B. Long, Miss Estelle
Dewar, Mrs. Wm. Goodkey, Mrs.
Jack Goodkey, Mrs. Panek, Mrs.
George Stratton, Mrs. Bert Kluc-
zny, Mrs. Cleve Dewar, Mrs.
Fraser Sr., Mrs. George Dewar,
Mrs. Owen O'Meara, Mrs. Charlie
Clemmer, Mrs. G. Bodenham, Mrs.
Shamp, Mrs. Ben Stady, Miss Phillips.

Nurses Auxilliary about 1939:

Standing: Marjory Day, Martha Rachel Lily Traback(?), Sylvia O'mea, Faye Willows (child?), Effie Maiers, Mrs. Clemmer Sr., Mrs. Edna Day, Mrs. Brawn, Mrs. Bodenham Sr., Mrs. Lou Hendrigan.

Sitting & kneeling: Mrs. Fraser, Mrs. Veryl Day, Mrs. Penek, Mrs. Kluczny, Allene (Fraser) Clemmer, Mrs. Stady.



Conroy Club Float at Buck Lake Stampede
"Hippievill Rejects"

Left to right: Lucy Betlamini, Pat Florence, Shirley Long, Isobelle Willows
Daphne Betlamini, Bob Willows (driving)



"Itchin to be Hitched"
Play put on by Conroy Club Members

LORNE CRIPPS:

Tiny Valley:

I was going to work on Brewsters Trail Ride. Just as I was about to mount the trusty steed provided, someone yelled "get her away from that (never mind) horse". Apparently he wasn't exactly a trustworthy mount. Anyway that was Lorne. After three years we broke the tradition of any holiday resort-which is "I love you honey, but the season's over".

Lorne went to work for the gov't breaking horses at Ya Ha Tinda. We spent our first winter there and by spring had decided to strike out on our own. We went to Prince George to see about a ranch in the Kootenay. On the way we stopped at Ma-Me-O Beach. Mrs. Berna Freeman told us about Morley Williams place, so we came out to see him. He sent us out to see Axel Buvarp who was going to Sweden.

The next day we went to see the banker. He almost threw us out. We had \$1000.00 and wanted to buy a farm!! Really it was a joke because banks didn't lend money for land in June of 1959. Finally he said - come back in half an hour. We almost didn't even bother - but we did and we're here.

We went back to Banff to work. On August 27th, 1959 I came back, moved in and started school, while Lorne went back to Banff. My only companion that first 2 months was a skunk who had taken up residence under the porch. He considered me the intruder, and let me know in skunk fashion every time I walked across it. One of us had to go! Luckily I caught

him out one night, so I stayed and he found new quarters.

The next year we were going to build, but Phil and Mary McGovern wanted us to buy their half, so we waited till after we had paid for it. The next year we bought a quarter owned by Jim Harris and one owned by Billy Larson. Now the house!

I quit teaching full time! Christine Anne was borne in May 1963, Rosanne Louise in July 1964 and Maxine Lorraine in January 1966. Lorne seeded the first new breaking the day Christine was born. A lot of roots have gone under the bridge since then.

In 1965 we traded some milk cows for beef cows, one of these part Charolais. Tiny Valley Charolais was the result.

Its a long, slow, steady process building a farm. There's heartbreaking, backbreaking years involved. This is the only kind of place that young men can start from scratch. Backbone, work and ingenuity make up for the lack of funds. Sometimes it has looked pretty dismal.

This is our home now, and we're proud of it, and of the steadfast community that we live in.

Lou Hendrigan once said "the people that live in Winfield and District had to be half Bulldog and half Chinaman. Bulldog enough to hang on when the going gets rough and Chinaman enough to live on nothing until they succeed."

by Shirley Cripps

SYD COTTERILL:

We were married in England and then left for Canada soon after. We came up from Calgary to Battle Lake in July 1933. We lived on the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ sec. 26 - 46 - 2 - W5, next to where Jack Phippen lives now. There were no roads at that time, only trails.

We were among the first settlers. We, the Grönows, Sampsons and Semmits. It wasn't easy, what with bush fires, mosquitoes and mud trails. In fact, we lived under canvas on a hayrack until we could put up a shelter on land homesteaded by the Thomas family from 1906 - 1912.

We lived in this location until 1966 when we went to live in Wetaskiwin, owing to ill health.

I was at the first meeting held at Grandma Freemans when the Battle Lake Ladies Club was formed, with Grandma as our first president.

We used to go to Yeoford Store for our groceries once a month, on the old Battle Lake road. There was no store any nearer at that time. We also got our mail at Hunters, who ran the Battle Lake post office at that time.

We are now enjoying our retirement in Wetaskiwin.

ARTHUR CRAWFORD:

In the fall of 1933, Mr. Arthur Crawford, after another year of drought and grass - hoppers, left his home at Veteran, Alberta in search of winter employment. He found work with Mr. Ernie Drader who owned and operated a sawmill west of Buck Lake.

The following May, Mr. and Mrs. Crawford and four children, with what cattle, horses, and household belongings they could get into a railway car, started out by rail to Winfield. The first stop was at Lacombe where the stock were fed and watered before continuing on to Winfield. On arrival, they were met by Tom Somers and Harry Damant with teams and wagons. The first night camp was made on a deserted homestead where water was available. The next night was spent with friends at Buck Lake. From there, they continued on to the Harry Damant homestead on which was built a little log shack which was their home for the first winter. The following year, Mr. Crawford homesteaded land SE 31-45-7-5, $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles west and $\frac{1}{2}$ mile south of Alder Flats, now owned by Don Cook. These first few years there was no road except for the first mile out of Alder Flats and many a load was mired in the mud. There was always large quantities of mosquitos, sand flies and bull dog flies to torment humans and beasts in the summer. The first home on the homestead was a one room lumber shack till the log house was built, and later a log barn. Water was very scarce and had to be hauled from the Rose Creek in cream cans for household use and the stock had to water at the creek in winter when the dug well went dry. The first store at Alder Flats was owned and operated by Mr. and Mrs.

Shilladay on the land where Mrs. C. Bohnnugs store is now located. Mr. Damant Sr., a kindly old man, operated the first Post Office and a small hardware, also kept a free library and a small supply of Rawleigh products. He passed out mail at all hours and a cow bell was attached to the post office door so if he was in the garden or doing chores around the place he could be called at once. Their home was a stopping place for hunters, traveling ministers or just a weary neighbor coming in for mail. Granny Damant always had a smile and the tea pot handy.

The old log school was located on the land where the new one of today stands. The Crawford children's first teacher was a Miss Agnes, Stone, then a Miss Amy Backstrom, Mr. T. Sheridan (a neighbor) taught the last year the youngest attended. In 1937, Mr. Gordon Mathias organized a choir which served as entertainment along with dances in the old school and house parties. Mr. Crawford has now passed on. Mrs. Crawford resides in her little home in Alder Flats. Floyd farms in the district, Hazel is in the Pendryl district; Helen in Edmonton; Ivy in California.

CREE VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT #1678:

The district was established by ministerial order on July 25, 1907. Senior Trustee at that time was A. E. Heacock.

On October 3, 1907 the Board was authorized to borrow \$700.00 for the purpose of securing and fencing a site, building and furnishing a school house, sinking a well and erecting out-houses. At this time Mr. Heacock had assumed the duties as Treasurer.

Cree Valley was built on SW 24 - 46 - 2 - W5 in 1908, and ceased operation in 1946, being closed by Wetaskiwin School Division No. 36. Permission to sell the site was approved by ministerial order dated May 14, 1958 and it was purchased by the Battle Lake Community.

Cree Valley was named by Rev. Willard Thomas, after the heroes of a battle fought between the Cree and Stony Indians at the east end of Battle Lake on Battle Lake Flats in 1885 and the Stony's moved camp to the west end of Battle Lake. The Stony's farmed a little field on the west side of Charlie Freeman's in the spring.

In 1908 school was held with 3 pupils attending in the Battle Lake church until the school was finished. The first teacher was Linnie Schnarr who was 15 years old; 1909 - Mr. Bowles from Nova Scotia; 1910 - Mr. Sullivan (Irishman); 1911 - Miss Darragh; 1912 - Miss Edna Abercombie; 1924 - Florence Stevens, now Mrs. Syd Waterman; 1925 - Ethel Johnson; 1926 - Miss Ruth Weir, This was the start of winter school terms so the children had no holidays till June 1927, 1928, 2 years -- Miss Margaret Lehmann who wed Ole Hauge; 1929-1930 - 2 years Mrs. Bernadine Freeman; 1930 - Miss Jean Fullerton; 1932, 33, 34 - Miss Bertha Paulson whose parents lived at Yeoford on NE 7 - 47 - 2 - W5; 1935 - Miss Hildor Eckland, who married Jim White and moved to Wenham Valley NW 10 - 47 - 3 - W5; 1936-37 - Miss Esther Papineau; 1938 - Miss Jean Spencer; 1939-40 - Miss Dorothy Bean; 1941 - Miss Mae Bunney until Easter, then Mrs. B. Freeman finished the term; 1942 - Miss Sophie Kurtin.

Chief's Paul & George Raine's are buried in the graveyard below Battle Lake Church.

WILLIAM CURRIE

In 1912, Mr. Currie stayed on the farm with an uncle of Joe Laczó in the town of Carmangay, Alberta.

Lights for the town at that time were generated by steam engine. The engineer was Wm. Currie.

He moved to the Pendryl district about 1933, to land NE $\frac{1}{4}$ 6 - 46 - 4 - 5. This property at one time was Pete Adams homestead, later Johnny Walker was the owner prior to Mr. Currie. He in turn sold to David Willows in 1958 when he moved north of Winfield for a time, then retired to a house and lot in Winfield until his death.

There are two daughters Esther & Lillian who make their home in Seattle, Washington, U. S. A.

ALFRED DAMANT

Alfred Damant came to Toronto, Canada in 1911, from Suffolk, England. His wife Mabel and family followed in 1913 and moved to Bentley, Alberta. In 1923 he took up a homestead in Alder Flats district, the third man to homestead in the area, after spending summers on the homestead getting things ready, clearing, putting up some buildings, etc., they moved into Alder Flats the spring of 1926, the same year that the railroad arrived at Winfield and the town of Winfield was started.



First Post Office
in Alder Flats - Mr.
and Mrs. Damant.

The walls of the log cabin were up and the lumber for the ceiling, floor and partition, we lived in a tent while the house was being fixed, put tar paper on the roof and started to get out blocks to split shakes and were caught in the bush by a bad hail storm. We hurried home to find my mother arranging the sheets from the beds as tents over the beds to keep them dry.

The first family to arrive to live at Alder Flats was on the Tipping Ranch, two miles west and two north of Alder Flats Post Office were the J. L. Tippings - Mr. and Mrs., Dalton and Mary. They moved from Buck Lake (then Minnehik) in 1912 or 1913. They had settled at Buck Lake in 1906 or 1907, not sure which but heard them tell of it several times. Then in 1926, they moved back to Buck Lake and started a store. Dalton, their son, was the first Fire Ranger in the district. In 1926, when we first moved in, there were Henry Rose and Ed Davis living on their homesteads.

Alder Flats, situated on NW 33 - 45 - 7 - 5, was officially opened as a Post Office on October 7, 1930. It got its name from four or five small meadows where the Fire Ranger used to camp, so he called it Alder Flats in his reports and the Post Office Department picked it from four names sent in. A. W. Damant was the first Postmaster, A. E. Damant the second and Percy Pye third. I still have the memo of the first stamps sent to Alder Flats - 100/1¢, 150/3¢, 5/10¢, 25/1¢. Due total \$5.00. There was a Post Office on the Tipping Ranch some where around 1916, I don't know the date. It was known as the Wolf River Ranch P.O. J. L. Tipping was the Postmaster. It only stayed two or three years, maybe more I don't think so though.

About 1930, when the depression started, a lot of people moved into the Alder Flats district. In 1934, most of the land was homesteaded.

Among the first after us were Sam Maciborski, Harry Runka, John Scrybalo, Gilvert and Clarence Bateman, Walter Sissons, Ole Bergquist, Philip Wennerstrom, Blade Bros., Vern Nicolls.

Our first school, built largely by volunteer labor, was built of logs hewed to six inches thick and dovetailed corners, then mud-plastered smooth (it could hardly be told from cement). I don't remember the name of the first teacher but the second was Agnes Stone from Westeros, Alberta.

We built a Nurse's cottage by volunteer labor, that also was of log and mud plaster. The first nurse was Miss Marjorie Maynes.

Farming conditions were awful in the spring. It was a race to get the few acres plowed and in crop before the rains started. Haying was generally O. K. if you got done early enough. The first fall at Alder Flats, I cut our grain crop with a scythe on the frost there had that much rain.

People in the district were very neighborly. When one wanted to build, a crew always turned out to raise the walls which was generally done in one day - four cornermen, two saw men and a pencil push who marked the cuts for the cornering - either half or full dovetail.

Most of us started out with dug wells but later had a drilled well. Our first well was six feet deep and most of the summer was full to the top.

This first part submitted by Alan E. Damant,
Golden, B. C.

Alfred Damant operated a hardware store and was the first postmaster at Alder Flats. He donated land for the Mission Covenant Church. Mabel died in 1942, Alfred in 1948.

Alfred and Mabels family were made up of :

Percy - Served in the army in World War 1, married Beatrice Reynolds, homesteaded in the Alder Flats district. (Al and Josie Anderson lived on Percy's homestead). Family are; Elizabeth, Tom, George, William and Joyce. They are all in the general area around Lacombe. All are married except Tom. Beth, Tom and Joyce are all on farms. George is elementary vice-principal in Lacombe and have lost track of Bill. Percy and Bea left the district sometime around 1940 moving to a farm near Aspen Beach. Bea became crippled with multiple sclerosis and was in a wheelchair for several years, she died in 1957, Percy died in 1969.

Caroline - married Herb Binning before the family moved to Alder Flats, have three children, Ivy Fred and Ted. Ivy married Albert Kellgren.

Henry (Harry) - remained with his family on the homestead for a number of years. My clearest memory of him was his fondness for singing. He left Alder Flats and worked in logging camps in B.C. then moved to Vancouver Island. He married Beatrice Sissons. Bea died in 1969 and Harry in 1970.

Alan - remained on the Damant homestead, also took a homestead of his own in the district. He tried many occupations, trucking, mail carrier. When Grandad Damant died, Alan took over the duties of postmaster but closed the hardware business. He married a district nurse, Barbara Ford; family - Anne, Linda, Terry and Lauren. All the children but Lauren are married and live in B.C.

Alan left Alder Flats for work in a sawmill at Tete Jaune in late 50's later moving to Golden.

Nettie - married Lloyd Parker, she died 1947, family - Hannah, Muriel, Charles, Cliff, Dalton, Nettie, Roy (died at 2 years of age), Henry (died 1962)

Muriel - also married before the Damants left Bantley and remained in the area around Lacombe until 1949 when she and husband Jesse Husby and family moved to Alder Flats, she taught school before her marriage.

by Mrs. Clara Scobie (granddaughter)

ED DAVIS

Mr. Ed Davis came to Alder Flats in the summer of 1919. He came from Oregon with his wife. She was in poor health and the doctor advised him that he should take his wife out west, so they started out for Wetaskiwin. She got sick on the way and died in Wetaskiwin, so he ventured out west to Alder Flats (which wasn't known at that time). The name was not known until 1931 or 32, when Mr. Ed Davis, Mr. Ole Berquist, Mr. Damant, Mr. Sisson; I don't know anymore; got together for a meeting to name what is today Alder Flats. They were going to call it Poplar Flats, but decided on Alder Flats.

The Maciborski family came in 1931 from Falun, bringing cattle with them, took up land where Jim Maciborski and family lives today.

Mr. Runka and family were here across from us. I don't know when they came in. They were here before we came. Also Wilson's, Sisson's, Ole Berquist, Damants, Henry Rose.

My mother, Mrs. Ed Davis, Benny, Jack and I, Josephine came from London, Ontario in August, 1930.

Mr. Ed Davis would go and help the hunters to drag by team, their moose, elk or deer out of the bush. They also stayed over with him.

We came by train from London, Ontario to Camrose, then went by wagon and horses with Mr. Davis to Alder Flats. That is where the excitement and hardships started we thought. We stopped at a minister and his wife's place. I remember a grave yard out at the back of the house from our window, being full moon, it looked kind of spooky. (Sorry I'm getting ahead of the story). Before we started out west, my mother and stepfather left us three kids standing by the railroad track in Wetaskiwin, as they said that they had to go and see some one. We were afraid and alone, thinking they had run off and left us. After awhile they came back and told us that they had got married.

Then we started out, I was walking as I couldn't take the shaking up and bumping over the trail, the only time I'd catch a ride was when the horses started to run.

I remember a place out at Battle Lake, the old road that goes around the lake. I don't know the people's names, but I know they let Mom and I sleep in the house, while my stepfather

and my brothers were to sleep out in a shed, they were nice to us. We arrived at Pigeon Lake - lots of Indians wearing braids in their hair.



Mr. and Mrs. Ed. Davis

We arrived at Winfield, stopped to rest the horses, then we went on. The farther we went the worse the trail got. The wagon would get stuck and mired down; the horses got stuck and laid down. We would have to jump out unhook the horses, get them up and pull the wagon out. We had trouble all the way like that. Then we got into Buck Lake. We travelled on to the north west of Buck Lake. The trail was really bad through the jack pine. We came out at Ole Berquists homestead that was where the road was. It was in the evening when we got here - September 6 or 7th, I believe. I called it "No Mans Land", it looked so different to where we came from - the city. We were all tired; not to mention the horses. We came to a log cabin, 2 rooms - 1 room down and 1 room upstairs, no plumbing, no electricity and no running water. Our beds were bunks, no soft beds like we had.

I told Mom that I didn't like it, that I wanted to go back home. I was lonesome, not to mention Mom. This wasn't what she thought it would be. We had all kinds of meat, wild meat I mean, potatoes, gravy, eggs and milk, so we had food at least.

It would take two days by team to go to Winfield for groceries. Alan Damant was the mail man. They had the Post Office at their place where Danyluk's have their store.

Mrs. Bedwell and I went a few times to get the mail. We both had a saddle horse and one pack horse. We wouldn't get in with it until dark. Mail was sure a great thing in those days, we got it once a week.

Nora Runka and I were the only two girls out here in 1930. She couldn't talk English but we soon got to know and understand each other.

I went to school for two months at Buck Lake (north-west) in a log school house by Charley Parker's homestead in 1932, I believe. I don't remember the teachers name - a lady

I was staying with Mr. and Mrs. Young north of Buck Lake. The teacher and I walked knee deep in snow to get to the school and sat in school with feet and legs wet.

I remember Pete Kiss went to school with us, so he could learn some English. I had quit going to school because there wasn't hardly any money to buy books with.

We got our water from a shallow well, that Mr. Davis dug himself. I know eggs were 3 to 5 cents a dozen.

There was dancing for young and old, we had a nice time, the mill men would play for the dance at Buck Lake. The women would bring lunch. We would sit around on benches at lunchtime. Coffee and lunch would be passed around. While we were eating, anybody that could dance a jig, or sing or anything, would get up and entertain us while eating. I remember one boy would get up and do a Russian dance. I never did get to know him or who he was. We really enjoyed it.

We had box socials; boxes and baskets were put up for bid. The man that bought your basket or box full of goodies, you would go and eat with him. They would put on plays at the school house (Alder Flats). Everybody would turn out to see them. Mom and Ben would put on plays - those were the happy days.

I remember many times Alan Damant would hitch a sleigh and a team of horses, go around and gather people up and take us to Buck Lake dance hall. One time he had 13 of us in the sleigh, so coming home all were sleeping and tired. He went over a snow bank and tipped us all out of the sleigh into the snow.

Fires were a menace in those days. I remember one fire that came from the west, jumped the road and came so close to our log house that we were told to pack what we could and move out. We took our chances and stayed and watched.

We thought we would go out west and pick berries, so we would take Old Baldy the horse. When we got quite a ways away; the old horse had a notion to start trotting. As we weren't used to horses, we all fell off at once, landed on each other, the horse ran home and we had to walk. Another time, we went berry picking at the home place. We got lost. We walked and walked. Finally, after a terrifying time, we came upon a building, not thinking it was home, we thought it was someone else's place.

Those days everybody had to lift a hand to clear brush with an axe, walk behind breaking plows leading a horse or horses, pile and burn brush; even tiny tots were out picking up stones and roots. We rode saddle horse, or a buggy and horse or wagon, and walked. Nobody complained. I could tell you more but I hope this will help you as I was only 13 years old. I have

forgotten quite a few things. I only stayed at Alder Flats for approximately 2 years and then I went out to work as my stepfather couldn't afford to clothe me.

Something else came to my mind. Mom made bread for the batchelors at 3 dollars a hundred (per sack). Lot of work in those days, to put up the yeast at night, cover it up with old coats, blankets or what have you. If it got chilled, you would have a poor batch of bread. It was a worry and lots of work. Also Mom would have the job to go and sweep and clean the school house out. They were board floors in those days. She would scrub them till they were white. I always remember her floors in the house would be the same way. I also remember Mom would take in and look after the women when they were going to have a baby; in her own home or she would go and help the women in their homes. There was no nurse out here in those days but she liked it. I remember one time, she got a little pail of beets for her work. Mom always had a nice garden not to mention the lovely strawberries she had. She saw many times the kids would sneak in under the fence to get strawberries.

I remember when they were making roads out here. The men and boys would take a team of horses and go and work on the roads to pay for their taxes.

Mom would go out with Miss Conroy when needed out at the Flats. Mom liked her. She was a wonderful person.

It was so wet out here, all the homesteaders wore rubber boots. It sure is different today. It has dried up a lot.

I also remember Mr. Hicks had a team of mules that he drove as a team.

by Mrs. Josephine Romanson
(nee Videsjorden)

ORRIN DAY

We arrived in Lacombe, Alberta from Nebraska December 1923 two weeks before Christmas after three days and three nights of travel by train with two small children, Donald almost three and Marjory fourteen months. The train from Lacombe made only one trip a week to Hoadley. We had missed the train by a few days, so Orrin decided to see if he could get someone to take us as far as Bluffton where my sister lived.



Mr. and Mrs. Day:
50th Anniversary -
May 1, 1958

At the garage, a man with a Model T Ford offered to take us for the price of fourteen dollars. The road to Bluffton was so rough and full of stumps we marvelled that a car could even get through, but the man must have had lots of practice for he got us there safe and sound. When we arrived we found only her husband, Bill Burns, home. Carol and baby son had gone to our parents for the Christmas Holidays. Bill was taking advantage of their absence by doing a very important job, that was chinking up their log cabin. This was done by filling in the cracks between the logs with moss from the swamp.

We stayed there for a few days rest; then Bill took us on to my folks. There had been no snow yet, which was unusual for this area in December; so he had to travel by wagon 25 or more miles over a trail that was full of ruts and frozen. The trail went across country through what is now the Community Sheep Pasture. What a ride! Sometimes bouncing over the frozen humps then sliding down into a rut with a bang. The men sat on a spring seat and the children and I sat on the floor of the wagon wrapped in blankets. We rode from morning until night only stopping once at Hoadley, which was a busy little place being the end of the railroad. There was a livery stable there and a cafe where we could eat. I'm sure the horses were glad to get fed and watered and have a well earned rest before going on; we felt better too but before we reached our destination we began to wonder if it was worth it. One hundred and sixty acres of land for ten dollars had seemed quite worth while when the folks, Mr. and Mrs. Shamp, wrote about it. They had come to Alberta in 1919 and settled in this district in 1921.

At last we arrived well shaken up and so stiff we could hardly get out of the wagon. The folks home was a large log house with one end curtained off for bed rooms and the rest a big living room and kitchen combined. How good it felt to get inside as we were cold and hungry, and what a happy reunion after five years! Nothing had ever looked so inviting; it was a haven of warmth and comfort after the long tiresome wagon ride. There was a lovely bear rug on the floor; a box heater and an old fashioned cook stove were sending forth welcome heat, and there

was an atmosphere of peace and comfort that compensated for the past week of travelling. We had no snow that year until after the New Year.

In the spring of 1924 Orrin filed on a homestead SW 3 - 46 - 4 - 5. Which was mostly heavy timber. We camped there for awhile that summer and with the help of my oldest brother got a small piece cleared. In the winter of 1925 we moved to the Prince place just west of the Nelson Hanbury place, where the old road used to be.



Harold, Mrs. Orrin Day,
Don and Marjory

The Carson Bardenhagen family preceded us at the Prince place which was the only stopping house between Buck Lake and Yeoford. The Mail Stage came through once a week to pick up mail at Yeoford and also groceries for families along the route. He usually arrived at our place around noon and most of the time had one or more passengers travelling with him. One never knew how many to prepare for as lumber haulers and anyone traveling on their own expected a hot noon meal. The Bardenhagens had decided to move to their homestead so before we moved in Mrs. B. kindly introduced me to the intricacies of running a hotel and cafe in a three room log cabin in the wilderness. We had a good outdoor root cellar and kept it well stocked with canned meat and fish, also

vegetables, canned and fresh, so we were usually ready for an emergency. Supper, bed and breakfast could be had for a dollar and dinners thirty-five cents. We had a good well not far from the house and water had to be drawn up in a pail on a rope and pulley. The well served as a refrigerator in the summer.

Orrin worked at a sawmill the rest of that winter for fifty cents a day, but we managed to get along. The meals for the travelers kept the table and there weren't many other needs in those days. The snow was deep and one mail day the field west of the house had drifted in during the night so the mail man had to scoop snow most of the half mile so the horses could get through. We could hear the sleigh bells long before he came in sight. It took him an hour to get to the house and he was really tired and hungry.

Spring came and Orrin used a borrowed team to put in a crop of oats which had to be cut in the fall with a mower as it was too wet for a binder. He went out to Wetaskiwin the same fall and worked in the harvest for a team of horses and a wagon. Next he worked for a neighbor for a cow and now I had to learn to milk and this was quite a chore for one who had been raised in a city. This was a whole new life for us with many things to learn. Orrin worked in a sawmill at Buck Lake the first part of winter 1925 and during that time Bill Burns built a log house on our homestead, moved his family up from Bluffton and started a tie camp.

The C. P. R. intended to extend the railroad to Breton beginning in the spring of 1926 and would need a good supply of ties. They hired a crew of men, about eight who cut the ties with broad axes, then they were hauled by sleigh to the railroad camp. A bunk house was built near where we lived and I cooked for them. I was kept busy that winter cooking, not only for the camp but for those traveling through.

One of the men working in the camp was struck on the head by a tree and was brought to the house to wait until the nurse could be brought from Pendryl, a distance of about ten miles. When she arrived she said he would have to go immediately to Wetaskiwin hospital where he could get Medical care. He was bundled up in blankets with some hot rocks to keep him warm. The nurse went along and I believe they went from Yeoford by car. I think he survived after a long time in Hospital.

Orrin had a job hauling ties after the New Year 1926, then in the spring the big camp moved in to start building. Horses were used for them. There were no big power machines as we have today so it took many horses on the job. There was a big dining hall and sleeping quarters for the men, really a huge camp. Now there was work on the railroad for the summer and it was finished as far as Breton.

The first store was built just east of the trestle by Mr. I. O. Gibbons and daughter Mrs. Lena Tait, but was later moved to the present town site where other business places soon

followed. During those first years Winfield was a busy town because of the lumber camps and sawmills. It was so nice to have a town near and the train coming in every week made us feel a part of the outside world.

Now there was no need for a Half-Way-House as there were two or three cafes in Winfield so we moved to our homestead which was about a mile and a half from where we had been living. It was such an out of the way place and so surrounded by big timber I felt shut off from the world. Orrin spent most of his time hauling feed from Hoadley or Bluffton; so the children and I were alone. We decided this place was not for a farmer so began looking for another place that would be easier to clear. Soon Donald would be six and ready for school and there would never be one there as there were no other settlers near.

In April of 1927 I went to Bentley Hospital where our youngest son, Harold was born. That summer we gave up our homestead and moved to the folks place so Donald could go to Pendryl School. He took grades one and two and Marjory took grade one. They had to walk two and a half miles each way. In the meantime Orrin filed on the quarter where we now live. In 1929 we moved closer to our homestead so we could do more on our place and also try to get a school as there were enough children in the district now. The men of Poplar Valley got out the logs and the building was completed so that school was started in January 1931. It was all done by volunteer labour.

Januray 1931, school was opened in Poplar Valley and was a great event. Donald and Marjory had been taking correspondence lessons, which were sent out from Edmonton, since leaving Pendryl School. I believe Miss Daveda Drader was the first teacher. The log building burned down during Christmas Holidays of 1934 so a frame building replaced it and served until 1954 when the children were taken by Bus to Winfield.

Eventually we moved into our own log house and it was so good to be settled at last. These were the years of the Depression, "The Hungry Thirties" and many did suffer during these years (there was no welfare then). New settlers moved in from the dried out areas for there was no lack of rain here and we always had a good garden, so with our own milk, cream, butter, eggs and meat we fared very well. We also had many different kinds of wild berries for the picking. Orrin hauled our wheat to Wetaskiwin to be made into flour and cereal. The extra cream and eggs would pay for coffee, sugar, salt, tea etc. Butter fat sold for 12¢ per pound and eggs about 8¢ per dozen.

Clearing had to be done with an axe, stumps were pulled with a team. An acre of land looked pretty big after it was cleared. The whole family got busy piling the brush, bigger logs were skidded out with the team and was sawed up for wood. It was hard work but we were young, ambitious and full of dreams for the future. Those were happy years in spite of the hardships.

The end of the Thirties brought many changes; the beginning of World War II and in Dec. 1940 the marriage of Marjory to Orville Williams of Edmonton. July 1941 Donald married Miss Edna Ewing from Drumheller who taught school at Poplar Valley the term of '40 and '41. Orville and Donald both served in the Canadian Armed Forces overseas. Harold was married to Miss Nellie Andrews April 1950. We celebrated our Fiftieth Wedding Anniversary May 1, 1968 with open house in the afternoon and a Reception at the Church in the evening. It was one of the happiest occasions of our lives and we have so many to thank for their help in making this such a memorable day.

Most of the old land marks have disappeared including the log buildings; even the landscape has changed as new roads and highways have been built and land has been cleared. Today as much land can be cleared in a week as would have taken years in the early days. In the last 15 or 20 years there have been unbelievable changes. We pay tribute to those who have gone before and blazed the trail for us. They gave us the courage to follow on and attempt the seemingly impossible. This land still presents great opportunities for all who are willing to face the challenge with ambition and determination to build on the foundation that has already been laid. May the future generations have the satisfaction and joy of achievement that we have experienced. Now as we are retired we can relax and enjoy the fruit of our labours in a land of freedom and prosperity, and I pray it will ever remain so for those who follow.

As we look back over nearly fifty years I have found it hard to sort out the main things; there are many amusing, and sad incidents I could have related but space does not permit, and we only have happy memories of our years in Alberta and wouldn't want to live anywhere else.

by Beryl Day.

In memory of Miss Amy Conroy

by Mrs. Orrin Day

Since this book is to be dedicated to the memory of Miss Conroy, I would like first of all to say that we have been privileged to have had so many wonderful nurses who have come to

Pendryl to serve the people in such a sacrificial way and I'm sure I speak for all when I say we appreciated everyone of them. They had to travel in all kinds of weather over terrible roads; in the winter riding in an open sleigh and in summer in a wagon but never seemed to mind. Some even rode horseback to isolated homes where a team couldn't get through. They all gave up a lot of comforts to serve us. When one of the family was sick and the Pendryl Nurse arrived, we felt confident that all would be well.

Miss Conroy was one of the last of these Nurses and she stayed the longest. We learned to love her at once for her gentleness and consideration for everyone. She loved her work here and after her retirement we often visited her in her home; her first thought was to serve tea then she wanted to know all about the people at Pendryl which she called home.

We were in to see her just two weeks before she passed away and she was so happy to see some one from "home". She was in very good spirits and seemed the same active energetic little person we had always known so we were shocked to hear of her passing, however we could not grieve for she lived a rich full life. She was dedicated to the Lord first then to the ones she served. I'm sure the Lord would say concerning her, "Well done though good and faithful servant". To know her was to love her.

TOM DEVALL

Tom, Minnie and family came from Bittern Lake and settled on NE 3 - 46 - 4 - 5, once homesteaded by Harry Hamlin. Tom died of appendicitis in 1932. There were three children: Gordon and the twins, Vernon and Verna.

In 1937, Minnie became the wife of Nils Hedin and the following year, little Margaret (Peggy) was born. In July 1949, a terrible wind and hail storm came up. Minnie was in the yard tending the stock. A tree fell on her and she was killed.

Gordon now owns the farm. He and Daisy were married in 1949. To this marriage five children were born: Raymond 1950, Roger 1951, Reginald (killed in a tractor mishap 1966), Richard 1954, Ronald 1957 and daughter Ronda 1960.

Nils Hedin first homestead $\frac{1}{4}$ section 2 - 46 - 4 - 5, now owned by Peter Funk.

Mrs. Tom (Minnie) Devall's

Eight Continuous days of Diary

Monday, 14th of February, 1926 -

The weather is cooler and we are all helping Harry to get ready for his sale tomorrow. Sid spent the evening with us. We showed him snaps and post cards and at twelve he went home and we went to bed.

Tuesday -

Harry (Hamlin) had his sale and everything went pretty good. I met all the ladies in the neighborhood. Tom bought the wagon and rack and a few other things and Carrie and I made lunch for the bunch. In the evening after the sale I went with Tom to water the horses and we let them roll and went to look at some things in the granary and the horses were gone but Tom found them again.

Wednesday -

The weather is much changed, snow is falling. Tom went to get the mail and there was only two letters from the T. Eaton Co. Harry and Sid were over. I made some ginger snaps and all ate some. Tom and I are to go to Sid's place tonight but I don't feel like going - We did not go!

Thursday -

Washed clothes and Tom went to the lumber camp, came home about four and we had dinner. The weather still cold and with a cold wind blowing. Tom went over to Burn's camp and came back. Had supper and he read while I did some knitting.

Friday -

I helped Tom get things ready to go out East. We got the rack on half way and left it because we couldn't lift it. Harry came over and I did some more knitting in the evening. Also put up another curtain and Tom shaved and then we went to bed.

Saturday -

We got up a little earlier because Tom is going home today (Bittern Lake). Sid and Harry both came over to help Tom with the rack but Tom already had it on. Tom is taking home some lumber. I ironed clothes today. Carrie came over and a man asked for Harry and I went over with Carrie and spent the night. Took care of her kiddies while Sid and Carrie and Harry went to the dance in our new town. Snowing out.

Sunday -

I got up early when Sid and Carrie came home from the dance which was seven. Walked home and found the pup home. Tom not back yet. Sewed on a rug all morning. There was a man here inquiring for Harry. Carrie called in on her way to Burns Camp and also on her way back. The weather warm again and lots of sunshine. I spent the evening sewing and mending Tom's clothes.

Tuesday -

Got up early and washed clothes. Sid came over with Coly Lunn and I was introduced to him after dinner. I went over to Carrie's and I took over a clown suit. Mrs. Day was there. The weather is just fine and my hubby is not home yet and I am still a grass widow! Spent the evening sewing.

Later entries in Minnie Devall's Diary

Sat. July 16, 1926 -

Tom went to Winfield and he saw the train and a bunch of men laying rails. Came home about seven. We went to Handburys to spend the evening. Sid played the accodian.

Sat. Aug. 27, 1926 -

Weather hot. Tom worked in root house for a while. Spread out the green feed to dry, worked on the binder, and in evening went to Handburys. They had been to the Knob Hill fair and won six prizes in all. Carrie got a necklace as prize for her flowers. We didn't go because they weren't sure of date. We would have liked to have gone.

Sat. Sept. 3, 1926 -

Tom went to town in the afternoon. Hitched up Girlie as she is somewhat out of practice. We heard the Shamp fellow making a lot noise. Tom went over to see - they were going to float ties down the creek in the morning.

Mon. Sept. 5, 1926 -

Sid over for a while. Five men from Shamps tie camp went through here.

Fri. Sept. 16, 1926 -

Snowing and getting colder and an awful day. Two men were here, one hunting cattle and the other asking the road to the tie camp.

Sat. Sept. 17, 1926 -

The weather is clearing. I put little Gordon out to sleep nearly all day. Tom made a pumpkin pie for me - it was really good too. It sure is wet around here now. I don't know when we will get our grain out.

Sunday, Sept. 18, 1926 -

The weather warm. Tom worked on the root house. He sure had a dickens of a time hauling logs in the mud.

Mon. Sept. 19, 1926 -

Weather cloudy. Tom went to see the oats in the corner field. I sure would love to go for a walk but it is too muddy to go even a few steps.

Tues. Sept. 20, 1926 -

Weather cloudy ending up with snow. Tom went to town in the morning for groceries. They have the station built at Winfield.

Wed. Sept. 21, 1926 -

The weather snowing. Tom pulled onions and brought them in. Some are frozen but not bad. Dug three bags of spuds. Sure is some job in this mud.

Sunday, Sept. 25, 1926 -

The weather fine. The leaves on the trees sure look pretty but guess there won't be many for long, by the way the wind is blowing. Tom shelled some wheat as we are going to make porridge out of it.

MAUD PLUMLEY DELONG

A few of my experiences as District Nurse while at Pendryl, Alberta.

Miss Elizabeth Clark the Superintendent of District Nurses in Edmonton at that time, who had had previous knowledge of my work as a nurse, felt me capable of taking the position and therefore I accepted it.

On the morning of February 8th, 1927 I left Edmonton by train for Wetaskiwin and from there I went by the mail truck to Yeoford, just beyond Battle Lake. Stayed there over night and next morning proceeded on to Pendryl, which was some twenty-five miles West, with Mr.

Bunney, the mail man who carried the mail from thereon. Our conveyance was the front bob of a sleigh, a shallow box with a board across to sit on. The weather was fairly mild but we faced a wet snow storm part of the way. However, we arrived safely about 4:00 p.m. at our destination somewhat bedraggled. Miss Kirby, Mrs. Bjur and Mrs. Fraser were at the Nurses's cottage to welcome me, the new Nurse.

We ate a good meal of moose meat with trimmings, the first time I had eaten moose meat, which I found very good, as one can imagine we were, or I was, hungry after travelling so far, so long. During my term as District Nurse I also had some bear meat, which is much, like pork only darker in colour.

Miss Kirby left a few days later and I was on my own and felt like a stranger in the wilderness. However, some Swedish people, who kept the Post Office and Store, were only a block away and we became friends very soon and they were most kind and helpful.

There were two deaths that spring, an old gentleman first, Mr. Pocha, and shortly after his poor old wife followed him. With the odd maternity case, colds, sore throats, flu, etc., and occasional minor accidents at the Sawmills around Buck Lake I managed to keep fairly busy. I did two teeth extractions, which I thought was quite a lot to expect and a bit out of my line as I wasn't a Dentist, but it seemed the Nurse was expected to do anything and everything and, in fact, I did.

One of my cases was a boy, Edmund Kluczny, who had pitched from a wagon onto a stump and just about scapled himself. He had to be taken out to Wetaskiwin and have stitches on his head. I later removed the stitches and he suffered no ill effects from his accident.

At the Annual Picnic in July, Mac Fraser was thrown from his horse and suffered a complete fracture of the femur, thigh bone. With some help I put on a box splint, gave him 1/6 of morphine for pain, then took him to the Wetaskiwin Hospital. We made the seventy five mile trip very well, accompanied by the Police.

During the winter a young child was brought in to me with a crochet hook in her back. Her parents had come from Poplar Valley with the child lying on her stomach on a pillow in a sleigh with someone holding the hook, as best they could, so that it didn't work further in. My forceps were not strong enough so I borrowed a pair of pliers from next door, sterilized them, froze the area around the hook using Ethel Chloride, then took a firm strong pull on the hook and managed to get it out. I am glad to say there were no after effects.

During my stay at Pendryl I was able to purchase a nice bay mare which I called "Madge". Having been brought up on a farm near Edmonton I could ride well and enjoyed this mode of travel very much, getting to and fro on my cases.

One lovely morning having been out on a call I was riding along, singing at the top of my voice, when my horse Madge stumbled and I hit the ground in front of her spraining my right wrist quite badly. I managed to climb back into the saddle, continue my journey back to the cottage, bandage my wrist and carried on.

Had a child with a button in its nose and another with a five cent piece in its nose. Both children were sent out for treatment.

Astrid Bjur fell from her horse and broke her wrist so I put a splint on, bandaged it well, treated her at home and it turned out well.

The Engbloom family, who lived not too far away, was a great help as they were always ready in emergencies, also the Long family.

Mrs. Long had an attack of appendicitis, which was difficult to diagnose, and before we could get a Doctor out her appendix ruptured. Finally we got Dr. Henry from Bentley, who brought a nurse with him, and we did an emergency operation at midnight with only oil lamps for light. The Doctor and nurse left the next morning and I was left with a seriously ill patient, whose life seemed to hang in the balance for the first week. By the time the Doctor came back at the end of the second week she was recuperating and well on the way to recovery. I had been called away on a maternity case and didn't see the Doctor but he left word how pleased he was the patient's condition was so good and the care I had given her. Mrs. Long was a comparatively well woman for some years thereafter.

I attended twelve maternity cases in all and in each case both Mother and child were fine.

Last, but not least, there was a regular epidemic of mumps especially among the men in the sawmills, mostly west of Pendryl. Some of them were very sick so I finally called in a Doctor.

In conclusion I must say the people in and around Pendryl were very kind and helpful and I enjoyed my term as Nurse with them. In April, 1929 I resigned and Miss Fleming took my place.

by Maud (Plumley) DeLong.

Maud Plumley married Richard DeLong in 1929. A son Jack was born in 1930. He attended school at Maywood for his elementary grades. Mrs. DeLong and Jack moved to Edmon-ton where Jack completed his high school education. Mrs. DeLong did special nursing in many of the city hospitals for three years, then took care of her mother the last two years before her passing in her little home where I still live. Jack and his wife and children live in Edmon-ton.

GEORGE DEWAR

Mr. and Mrs. Dewar came to Calgary and Vulcan in 1913 from Boston, Mass. His trade was carpenter and he was kept busy around the district. In Sept. 1919, when the other members of the family, who were all farm raised decided to find homesteads, he came with them. There



Dewar Family

Harry, Cleve, Estelle, Mrs. Cleve Dewar, Mrs.
George Dewar, Bobby, Mr. George Dewar.

were the Cleve Dewar, Raymond Dewar, Chester and Claude Dewar and their families. When they arrived here by way of the back trail through Iola, they lived for a time on SE $\frac{1}{4}$ 31 - 45 - 4 - 5, then George homesteaded NE $\frac{1}{4}$ 5 - 46 - 4 - 5, Cleve took NW $\frac{1}{4}$ 4 - 45 - 4 - 5 and Ray-mond took NE $\frac{1}{4}$ 32 - 45 - 4 - 5 known as Carl Slaughter's. One reason for coming was the drought at Vulcan - planted 440 acres of wheat which looked very prom-ising in the spring but only harvested 99 bushels.

Harry well remembers the trip up with a covered wagon that was too wide to get through the trees along the crooked trail with four days of continous rain.

1921, George built an 18 x 24 foot house of pine lumber, a log barn and did his farming with horses. Son Harry served in World War I and when he came home, became very active in road construction work, holding the position for many years.

1919, the Dewar's brought 45 horses to the district. Many of them died the first year as snowstorms arrived in October and a sleigh could still be used well on into May. Mr. Lassitor had a herd of horses here too which Harry took back in the fall. He says that rustlers were around even in those far off days. There were also many bush fires but these didn't come too close to the settlers.

Picnics with all the ice cream one could eat, baseball games on Sundays with people coming from as far as Battle Lake. Mrs. Dewar was an active gardener and had a beautiful flower garden and yard. She was one of the early members of our Conroy Club. In later years, she became crippled and spent many years in a wheel chair. Mrs. Dewar passed away in late 40's George prior to 1941.

The Cleve Dewar's moved to Calgary and Harry still lives in Winfield. While Mr. and Mrs. Dewar were alive they milked as many as 12 cows, churned the cream, made butter and sold or traded some and packed the rest for winter use.

The old Dewar farm has one of the best blue berry patches in the country.

by Harry Dewar.

CLAYTON DEWITT

In the year 1921, two DeWitt boys came to Alberta. George, the oldest, came from California, where he had been an engineer on the Erie Railway. He was married with one son, Ryland. They settled in the Buck Lake country.

Clayton, the younger, came from New York, where he had been a steam engineer for a lumber company, and loaded logs on flat-cars on the railway by means of a steam log loader

with long cranes and cables. Clayton was married with three children at that time, Merriell, the eldest, then myself, Ruth and then a son Bernard. In 1934, another girl, Vera, was born, and in 1938 another daughter, Constance, was born, at which time Father decided that the country was "good for something after all". We settled in the Seattle District, and the post office was called Knob Hill. Our homestead was two miles north of the post office. This road was the dividing line between Seattle and Wenham Valley district, and later became Number 19 Highway.

The DeWitt boys brought their mother with them to Alberta, as she was a widow. Their father had been killed in the San Francisco Earthquake of April 18th, 1906.

Word had reached the U. S. A. of the cheap land and good farming areas and opportunities in Canada, so Clayton and George communicated and decided that they would like to try their hand at farming. Both were unfortunate in choice of location, since it was of a grey wooded soil, and not the rich farming land they had hoped for. The area was also hard to clear and get under cultivation with only horses and very little machinery to work with. I recall my father saying in order to make a living on his farm, he had to have a "strong back and a weak mind".

All foreigners and their families under the age of twenty-one years were entitled to become naturalized Canadian citizens after the completion of the improvement of their land. The law required each homesteader to have about thirty acres under cultivation in order to prove up his land. I believe each was given ten years to accomplish this. Our father, of course, became a Canadian citizen in 1931, since he had his thirty acres all nicely cleared and broken - but on the poorest corner of the farm he was later to discover. However, with his priceless sense of humor, he would say "Well, at least it's all in one field", and then laugh and tell of a fellow a few miles away who cleared and broke a twelve foot swath around his thirty acre plot, but did, in fact, prove up his land, since the land agent neglected to come and check out the man's sincerity.

Clayton and George DeWitt left their families in the United States and came up to Wetaskiwin by train. From there they walked west, looking for land that could be either homesteaded or cancelled. A man by the name of Mark Wenham, for whom the district was named, looked after the land office. I believe his house is still standing. The Wenhams lost two children, whose graves can still be seen on their homestead under large spruce trees. The land Clayton chose had been homesteaded but abandoned by a man whose name was Steinhauser, so Dad had the man's claim cancelled, and made the improvements and got the title himself. There was a small log house and barn built by Mr. Steinhasuer, and we lived in this log house until 1937 when it burned down. Merriell and Bernard and I went to the Seattle School, where our first teacher was Miss Florence M. Pearson, who later married Mr. Lou Hendrigan and farmed just west of Winfield.

We had two stores to trade at - one two miles south at Knob Hill, where the store keeper's name was Maynard, and another store about six miles east at Yeoford, operated by J. P. Nowell, (Mrs. Kathleen Elliott's grandfather). I have a bill from this store dated June 2, 1939. Some of the things listed on this bill were: flour - 50 lbs. for \$2.40; soap - 1 bar for 10¢; yeast - 2 boxes for 15¢; lard - 2 lbs. for 25¢. Interestingly, at that time, sugar sold for 10 pounds for \$2.40, while at the date of this writing I purchased it at the rate of 25 lbs. for \$3.39, a difference of almost ten cents less now than then.

Also located in our area was an R. C. M. P. station, and a District Nurse by the name of Miss Smith, who later became Mrs. Tom Hildahl.

Some of the people who were our neighbors in those days are still living on the same land. The ones I remember were the Stones, Bunkers, Wards, McLaughlins, Ginthers, Skoglands, Jones, Nelson, Martindales, Nicholson and Bunneys.

Entertainment in our area was limited, with the exception of what one made for himself. The large dance hall that now sits at the new Yeoford site, sat on the south east corner of the Grover place at Knob Hill. Everything was held there, including picnics, dances, debates, the affairs of the community, funerals, weddings, religious services, and anything else that might be of interest in the community. Usually, everyone in the community attended the various functions. My sister, Merriell and I often sang duets at the dances and concerts held at the hall.

Bad blizzards came and went, and with each one we pulled our chairs a little nearer to the air tight heater, and hoped the storm would soon blow itself out. We did not burn coal, but always had plenty of wood, and even though the fire was banked with green wood for the night, the water pail was usually frozen over by morning.

One interesting event, or so it seemed to me was in the late twenties. A new neighbor had moved into the country, and they drove a team of mules. The lady of this family usually did the driving, and she had a wonderful sense of humor. One day as she was arriving at a picnic at the Knob Hill Hall, one young "smart-alec" called out to her "Hee-haw, Hee-haw!" And quick

as a flash, the lady driving the team of mules called back to him, "That's right, young man, one ass always knows another when they meet!"

Another story that I recall with interest and affection has to do with a pony that Uncle George DeWitt at Buck Lake gave me. The pony had been one of a four-up used on the Ricker Freight Wagons from Wetaskiwin to Buck Lake. There was not much in the way of roads, so Mr. Ricker had made his own trails here and there across the country. These trails could easily be found, and were still used some by the farmers at the time we arrived in the country. After the freight company had left, this pony seemed to be left over. Although she had one bad bogspavin in a front knee, she believed herself to be far more capable than she actually was. She was mine, however, and I loved her, but there came a time when we did not have enough feed for our cow and team, never mind the pony. In order to solve this problem, Dad decided that we should give the pony to some new neighbors by the name of Rathgebar. I of course was reluctant to part with her because of my affection for her. The Rathgebars' were very kind to her however, and made a small sleigh on which she pulled their groceries home, but they were never allowed to ride on the sleigh themselves. Their act of kindness to my pony left me with a life long admiration for this entire family.

In approximately 1927, there seemed to be a lot of tonsilitis going around, as the entire country seemed to be plagued with either affected tonsils or adnoids. A visiting nurse was sent around to each school, and she made short work of checking each of us off as a candidate for a tonsilectomy. We were given a note for our parents with the particulars of the impending operation, and a list of what they might bring along to make the experience as comfortable as possible for us. On the date assigned, we set off in the lumber wagon to the dance hall at Winfield seven miles away, where a mobile medical clinic from Edmonton had been set up. The stage of the dance hall had been curtained off, and each child in turn was taken behind these curtains where the operation was performed. In a little while we were returned to Mother and placed on a bench about twelve inches wide until we awakened from the anesthetic minus our tonsils and adnoids, and were considered well enough to start the wagon ride home. Obviously the days outing (and I mean "outing" in more ways than one) impressed us rather extensively, because my brother, Bernard, and I played doctor and nurse for months afterwards, and "removed tonsils" from everything on the farm, from my dolls to Mother's chickens.

The difference in our way of life now and then, in what amounts to a short fifty years, is sometimes almost frightening, and causes one to muse over what people did up until that time. Each and every member of a family, young and old alike, was required to do his share of the work to help Father prove up his land. Even our petite little Grandmother was not beyond picking roots, carrying in the wood for the fire, picking rocks, or furiously picking the berries that grew so abundantly in that country, and kept us in a good supply of canned fruit for the wintertime.

Another job that Granny was most adept at, and one that we children were required to help with each fall, was to chip the cracks between the logs of the house with moss. This, however, was often a job demanding repeated redoing, because of a rogue cow of ours that kept pulling it back out again. I can still envision in my mind dear little Granny coming on the run from picking roots, flapping her apron and waving her arms, and calling out, "Clayton, Clayton, Roannie's diggin' out the chinkin'!". Dear Roannie, the first cow we owned, almost caused me to loose faith in the entire animal kingdom. We never dared to leave clothes out on the line, or there would be Mother running around pulling sheets out of Roannie's mouth all chewed up and nearly digested. And then poor Mother would despairingly exclaim that we would just have to save up our flour sacks to make new sheets, which in turn meant that we would all go short on underwear until the sheet was replaced. She ate all of my doll clothes one time, and I begged Mother to have Dad cut her open and get them back. But mother explained to me that since a cow has four stomachs, we would have no way of knowing in which one my doll clothes were, and very likely if he did find them, they wouldn't be worth saving anyway. On the thirteenth of May, (probably a Friday), Roannie presented us with a pure white heifer calf, and did thereby mellow and win back all our hearts.

There were two good springs of water on our homestead from which we hauled water to the house by means of a barrel on a stone boat, pulled by a team of horses.

Father passed away in November, 1939. Shortly after his death, Mother and the rest of the family moved to Wetaskiwin. Grandmother DeWitt passed away in 1944, and on December 6th, 1948, Mother died.

Merriell married Gunnar Karlson, and lives in Ponoka, Alberta. I married Godfrey Malmas, and presently reside in Innisfail, Alberta. Bernard, who has been employed by Northwestern Utilities since 1949, married Mary Jensen, and they have recently purchased

some property west of Rimby.

by Ruth (DeWitt) Malmas, Dec. 13, 1971.

In addition to what Ruth has written about the history of our family, I wish to make the following contribution of my own recollections about our early life in the Knob Hill District.

Although I was only about seven years old when we left the Knob Hill district, I still recall the Knob Hill district, I still recall living there on our farm.

I started school at the Wenham Valley School - I believe the grades were from one through nine. It was a three and one half mile walk from our farm, so our brother, Bernard, often took me to and from school on his bicycle. A picnic was to be held one day near the end of the school term, but because I was a rather shy child, I insisted on going home instead. I walked with the group as far as the road that turned toward our farm, and then continued on from there by myself. A terrible storm came up, and I was caught in the middle of it. I had a most difficult time getting up the Canyon Hill (as it was called then) because it was so steep and slippery in the storm, and the hail stones were pelting me from every direction. I finally made it up the hill and home, however, soaking wet and extremely unhappy. The picnic, unfortunately, was rained out too, but at least everyone there got a ride home.

We moved to Wetaskiwin shortly after Dad passed away, where I finished my education and worked for a while until I married Ed Fyten from Strome, Alberta, in 1954. We lived in Saskatchewan, returning to Alberta in 1958. We have made our home in Bowden since 1963, where Ed has his own business. Ed has been mayor here for the past three years. We have three daughters, Debra, Brenda and Ramona.

Connie, the youngest in the DeWitt family, was only about three years old when we left the Knob Hill district, so does not recall much about her home there. She was educated in Wetaskiwin, and later worked in Windsor, Ontario, New Westminster, B.C., and Calgary, where she met and married Donald Viens, in 1967. They make their home in various points in the United States, since her husband is in the U.S. Air Force. Presently, he is serving a one year tour in Viet Nam, and Connie and their daughter, Robyn, are residing in Bowden until he returns to the United States. They are expecting their second child in early February, 1972.

by Vera (DeWitt) Fyten, December 13, 1971

GEORGE DEWITT

Mr. and Mrs. George DeWitt and son, Ryland, came from Spokane and spent one season (1921) with brother Clayton at Knob Hill, then came out to Buck Lake and stayed a short time with John Parker who had homesteaded on the west side of Buck Lake.

George built a small cabin and lived in it the first 10 years, when they built the present house and barn (30 x 40 and 24 x 28) of hewed grooved logs and insulated with planer shavings. The house boasts a large stone chimney and fireplace. Rocks - hard sandstone were hauled from Poplar Creek and some from Cummings corner. Lime and sand came from Calhoun Bay. No one was living at the Bay then. When asked about the logs he said he hewed one a day for a total of 40. As he had woodwork training this is a work of art. During World War I, he worked at Oregon, building ships, and 19 months during the last war at Prince Rupert. Mrs. DeWitt, mostly cooking and taking care of a rooming house at Goose Bay.

Asked why he decided on settling at Buck Lake, he replied he had heard much of Red Deer, so headed there to see a land agent, met a homesteader from west of Rimbey who advised George to go to Buck Lake as homesteads around Red Deer to Rimbey were all taken. The first family he got acquainted with were Harry Dewars parents, Mr. and Mrs. George Dewar. There was no road, just an Indian trail being used by white people on the west-ward trek to homesteads.

George recalls the winter of 1928 being the coldest and most bitter he had ever seen. He filed saws that winter for sawmills. He also built boats and sold them. They were needed to get groceries from across the lake and for fishing.

Mr. Calhoun, son Joe and daughter Bessie lived at the Bay before 1921 but went to Oregon, and Bessie returned for a visit in 1962.

Neighbors in the early days were Vicens, Sam and Harold Weavers, Julius and Ben Dahl, Betlamini, Whethems, Oakes, Guards, and Hellervicks. These last four coming at the same time. Others at north end of the lake were Horndoff, Pete Nelson, Frank Heighington and Conrad Bjur.

George worked several winters for Burrows and Frasers and remembers the "splash dam" on Poplar Creek. Logs were floated down this to the Saskatchewan River and then on to Edmonton. He well remembers the times it took 4 boats to break up a tangle of logs - this was no kids work. At this time, it was heavy timber country north of his homestead. He says the white man sure spoils nature, that the old days were good days and he preferred them to now. Mr. and Mrs. DeWitt are well on into their 80's, got the telephone a year ago but power was too expensive. They find the days long and lonely as no one has time for visiting. Still think the wood stove is best for baking!

by Mr. and Mrs. George DeWitt. June 1970

DAVID (SCOTTY) DONALD

Geda arrived in the Poplar Valley district in 1941, having purchased quarter section NE $\frac{1}{4}$ 5 - 46 - 4 - 5 from Mr. and Mrs. Bill Turnbull. I was the first World War 11 veteran to settle under the Veteran's Land Act. In 1961 we traded this property for quarter number SE $\frac{1}{4}$ 17 - 46 - 3 - 5 east of Winfield where we reside. Our son, Daniel, married Ruth Caruthers. They have two little boys and at present, live here too. Dan works for the Department of Highways. Daughter Grace married Donald Nelson. They have five children and live in St. Albert.

At one time at the old farm, the National Film Board held shows in our front room. Best of all, Gramma Dewar, at that time a wheel chair patient, could enjoy this entertainment.

Some times on a Sunday, even though we didn't expect company, as many as thirty people would have supper with us.

At a skating party on our creek at the beaver dam, Paul Clemmer fell through and slipped in between two thicknesses of ice. His skate was caught and the other youngsters could not pull him loose. Finally, one reached down through the hole, cut his skate lace and freed him. By this time he was mighty blue with cold and very wet. They rushed to the house where Geda quickly got him into something dry and he was put to bed. Upon arriving home Paul's mother, not knowing of the incident, asked Clare, "Where is Paul" and Clare answered "Oh, he fell through the ice and is going to stay there all night". Needless to say, Allene was very upset until he told her in detail what had happened.

BILL DOOL

They bought land, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ 8 - 46 - 5 - 5, in 1924 and moved back and forth between Maywood and Lacombe until 1927 when they returned to the Gull Lake area to make their home. When they first came it was by team and wagon. They had eight children. Charlie Mickey now owns that property.



Bill Dool - 1924: Moving to Buck Lake through Hoadley Hills.

CECIL DOOLEY:

Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Dooley came to the Battle Lake area from Wyoming, U.S.A. and homesteaded on the NW 24 - 46 - 2 - 5 in 1928.

Cecil entertained many with his tap dancing and hand springs at the local dances.

His brother, Alfred, from Wyoming spent a couple of years with them. With a 1928 Ford truck and a 1929 Fargo they hauled lumber for Snell Bros. at Battle Lake to Wetaskiwin. Alfred left and went back to Wyoming in 1932 and Cecil and family left in 1936.

They had four girls, Mary, Cecile, Mary and the other girls name is forgotten.



Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Dooley - 1928

W. J. DOYLE SR.

The fall of 1939 saw Dad Doyle, assisted by Harold Christensen, set out on the long trek by team and wagons from Vermilion, Alberta to Buck Lake, to join the rest of his family. Some of them were already living there, and the others had arrived earlier by truck, bringing the

household effects. As winter was fast approaching by the time he arrived, they settled in a little log house on the bank of a creek near Mr. and Mrs. Ed Young and girls. They were delightful friends and good neighbors. Dad spent the winter skidding logs for small logging contractors. Spring arrived with the little creek running speedily along on its way to the lake. It lulled one to sleep and woke you with its babbling tinkle as it tumbled over the rocks and sped on its way.

Mrs. Young and the little girls did so much to help the summer pass for Mother as she was alone alot, while Dad worked for differ-



The Doyle Family

ent farmers with his beloved horses, plowing, discing, or making hay. Audrey and Joy worked wherever someone needed help, usually with housework when there was sickness in the family. Jobs were not easy to get and money was scarce. By winter, Dad had a contract to haul logs to the lake for Mr. Peterson, piling them for the log boom in the spring, when a big scow would come and tow them across the lake to Letourneau's mill. We moved to the camp and cooking and washing for the men kept us busy, but we still found time to have fun, and go to dances and house parties. There were lots of young folk around and they always gathered at the slightest chance. If there wasn't a dance at the Minnehik hall where "Big Joe" Laczo set your toes to tapping as he tickled the ivory keys on his big accordian; we could always rely on a house party somewhere. If no one could provide a fiddle or other musical instruments, you would be sure to find a few spoons were set to clacking and a comb and tissue paper accompanying someone on a mouth organ or jew's harp. Some were even able to produce music on a hand saw or wash board. It may not always have been the best of music but no one cared and you could always sing a little louder. Everyone had fun and didn't mind the long walk home again. Even mud or snow did not stop anyone and the truck drivers hauling lumber to Winfield were always glad to have some company for a few miles and never passed anyone up if they could hang on. It was not uncommon to see someone riding on the fender, hanging on to the headlight or hood ornament as the big trucks crept slowly through a mud hole. There were no telephones so news was

was spread from place to place by the trappers.

Mr. and Mrs. Doyle moved to Horburg near Rocky Mountain House in the spring of 1941 where Dad started cutting ties and mine props on his own. They remained there until March 1950 when Dad passed away at the age of 71 due to a heart attack. Mother went to live with Audrey and Helen who were cooking at the Lacome Experimental Farm. In 1953, she went to live in the home at Camrose where she spent 16 happy years. She passed away August 1969 at the age of 86 years. They are both at rest in the Deer Home Cemetery at Red Deer.

Audrey lives in Edmonton where her husband, Chester Goings, is employed with the Alberta Government. They have one daughter, Barbara.

Joy and her husband, Marinus Hanson, farmed for many years at Kitscoty. 1970 saw them move to St. Walburg, Saskatchewan near where their only son farms, and are happy to enjoy their three little grandchildren.

by Joy (Doyle) Hanson.



Winfield Hotel:

Raging Forest Fire

Returning home to the Buck Lake pines,
We arrived at Winfield, one night, to find
The road ahead was hard to see,
The country looked different than it used to be.
The smoke was thick where a fire had been
And all was black instead of green.
Now the smoldering stumps caused some alarm
As lovely green spruce had lost all their charm,
And off in a distance red glowed the sky,
You thought of "All" that may have to die.
It was scary indeed to one who'd not seen
And you wished you'd awaken and find it a dream
As you suddenly saw the flames leap high
And lick at the tree tops, way up in the sky.
At every moment where the road made a bend
You expected to find your travel to end.
You whispered a prayer for family so dear
As the flames leaped high and appeared so near.
It was a relief to at last arrive there
And find all were safe, though not over the scare,
For the fire was raging around Buck Creek.
The men had been fighting it more than a week.
Three days of rain started early next morn,
Soon the men came home, all tired and worn.
It was the answer to our prayers,
As the fire went out, and left no empty chairs.

by J. Hanson, nee Doyle.



ALFRED J. DRADER:

I first came to this country in 1917. That visit is remembered only because of the mosquitoes. My face was so badly bitten that my eyes were swollen shut and I saw nothing of the return trip.

I was out here again in 1928 at Christmas time to look at the mill my Dad had sold to

Wilson and Sisson. In 1930 Dad took over this same mill, re-built it, on the NE 16 - 46 - 5 - 5 and started to saw. I still own this land as well as the NE 15 - 46 - 5 - 5. I worked here with Dad until 1935 when I went to Anthonys mill for a couple of years. In the fall of 1937 I returned to Dads mills, he had a couple of small mills run by tractor power, but the big mill was powered by a stationary steam engine. Here is where I earned my 300 Steam Engineers Ticket. In 1942 I went to Brule, Alberta to work for Brule Lumber Co., a subsidiary of Etter-McDougall, staying there for about two and a half years before returning to Buck Lake.

In December of 1947 I was married to Ede Peterson and after another year with Etter-McDougall we started a garage business on the lakeshore of Buck Lake. In 1952 we moved our business to hill site where we are still located.

Pioneer resident's life goes back to "covered wagon" days

Ern Drader, resident of the Lacombe and district for over 71 years, will observe his 91st birthday at the senior citizens' lodge here on October 24.

One of the diminishing group of pioneer residents still living in the country, Mr. Drader is active, in good health, and still attends the regular meetings of the local friendship club, of which he is a past president.

Born on October 24, 1879, at Watford, Ontario, Mr. Drader came west with his parents to Manitoba in 1896. Three years later, the family joined the father who, in the preceding year, had moved to Lacombe which then contained a sawmill and a flour mill.

At the age of 20 years, Mr. Drader homesteaded northwest of Lacombe. There were no roads worthy of the name at that time,

and a latch-string policy on every door was the order of the day. Good friends and neighbors, living half a mile north at that time, were Mr. and Mrs. Jack Bradley.

Mr. Drader's first steam engine papers are dated 1903, and from 1908 on, he operated his own custom service sawmill. The mill involved various moves, and he worked throughout the Meadowbrook-Rimbey areas for many years.

In 1909, Mr. Drader married the former Ellen Johnson. Three years later, while sawing on his father-in-law's farm, he was involved in a planer accident and suffered the loss of his right arm. Since that time, and until retirement, he worked largely as a machinist.

In the fall of 1913, Mr. Drader purchased a timber berth, and fondly remembers how his Hud-

sons' Bay quarter section was the finest timber he ever bought.

At the time that he finished his sawmill career (in 1952) his mill at Wolf Creek was sawing 5,000 feet of lumber an hour. No planing was done.

A jack-of-many-trades, Mr. Drader had begun custom brush-cutting work, even before he quit sawing.

He did his first work in this field with an H45 cat, starting early in the year of 1945, and continued breaking land on a custom basis until 1958.

Including backhoe work with his brush breaking equipment, Mr.

Drader dug sewer line trenches for the city of Wetaskiwin and had a waterworks contract with Calgary Power Ltd. Among his larger jobs was one at Rimbey, when he was awarded the contract to dig out for breaks and leaks in the original system. This led to a contract for large extensions of the original waterworks system at Rimbey.

He also installed a lighting plant at Rimbey in 1926, and operated this power service until, in 1934, the franchise was taken over by the Calgary Power Ltd.

Mr. Drader moved to his present home in the senior citizens' lodge in 1961. His wife died in 1960, and in 1961, Mr. Drader married his former neighbor, Ada Bradley, who was also residing at the lodge at that time.

Deeply interested in all senior citizens' lodges in the province, Mr. and Mrs. Drader visited 18 such lodges throughout Alberta. They have also driven as far as the pavement extends to the Alaska Highway, and to Saskatchewan's Squaw River dam, where a son, Ted, was employed.

Mr. Drader had a wonderfully equipped workshop in the basement of the lodge until a year or two ago, and constructed all sorts of woodwork in his spare time.

His wife, Ada, passed away at Lacombe in February, 1970.



ERN DRADER

SOPHIE DUNCAN:

I was born at Addy, seventy-five miles north of Spokane, Washington.

We moved to Alix, Alberta in April 1914. In 1921 I went to Oakland, California to visit relatives and while there I met George Duncan and we were married in 1924. From there we went to Ogallala, Nebraska where we were in the building contracting business. In 1933 our

only child, a boy, was born. In 1938, George was accidentally killed in a fall while building a theatre in Worland, Wyoming. After his death, James (my son) and I made a few trips back to Canada to visit relatives, but I would no sooner get back to Nebraska than I would want to come back to Canada so in March, 1941 I moved back.



Back: Mr. and Mrs. James Duncan, Sophia Duncan.
Front: George, Terry Ann, Patricia Lynn.

In November 1941, Harry Hastings, my nephew, and I purchased the Nat Johnson place, SW 33 - 46 - 3 - 5. There was only a small house and another one room building with just a saw-dust floor which Nat called their summer kitchen. The house had bare boards which looked as though they had just been laid although Nat and his brother had lived in it for some time, but the floors were immaculate. From the looks of them they had never been washed. No doubt they had been sanded, if they ever did get dirty. There was no sign of dirt anywhere and no bed bugs, which were certainly plentiful in this part of the country at that time. The house was built of tamarac logs and is still standing but since has been built onto. The barn is also built of tamarac logs and still in use, and a granary which is built of ordinary lumber and still in use.

A small creek runs through part of the pasture and yard. Water was used for the house, until we began putting horses and cattle in that part of the pasture, then we carried water for drinking and cooking from a spring about a half a mile away on

the one time Ginther place. We finally dug a well which was good until Seismograph outfits drilled test holes on another quarter just south west of this quarter and our well went dry so we had Ray Matthews drill a well which ended up in a flowing well which still flows.

The road on the west side wasn't very good when we first moved here, or for several years after, which is plainly seen in a picture of the creek and bridge which was taken in 1951. Several Indians used this road but always left the place they camped neat and never left any rubbish. One time two wagon loads of Indians were coming from the south and got stuck but even with two teams hooked to the front wagon couldn't budge it so came up to the house and got another team and finally got out. The women and children came up to the house in pouring rain. I gave them dinner, which wasn't too much but anyway they got dry and warm before starting out again. Since then the roads have improved very much.

My son James attended Norbuck School for a short time. After we moved to this place, went to Wenham Valley School for a term. One day Andy Carlson, then road foreman, came and asked me why I didn't sent James to Seattle School as they would have a very good teacher at the beginning of the next term. He told me when I asked him who it was. He said Mrs. Vern Grover but at that time I didn't know her at all. While James went there someone had given him a dog and he trained the dog to drive so each day he drove the dog to school. At one Christmas concert Jim had to go earlier than I, so he took the dog but as it was rather chilly we let Jim ride home with us, thinking the dog would follow, but he didn't and as one of my nieces was staying with us for a few days, she said she would go after him the next day but no way could she get the dog to come back with her so Jim had to go after him anyway.

But to finish the story, things are very much better now. We are living amongst a wonderful bunch of neighbors. Usually there is a good supply of wild berries which I enjoy picking - just a regular holiday for me.

T. L. DUCAN:

Store at Norbuck in the early 1930's.

T. L. Duncan, a bachelor from Manyberries, Alberta was secretary to the school board for Norbuck school all the time he was here.

He had a store on the SE 1 - 47 - 4 - W5 and sold groceries on a Co-op deal. Receipts were issued for every purchase and at the end of the year profits were established and he gave a dividend of 12½ to 15% back to his customers, which was usually taken out in trade. Peanut Butter sold in large pails but averaged 11¢ per pound.

The store was broken into one night and he was seriously injured. He died a few weeks after. His brother sold the estate to Walter Ing, who still lives on the land.

NORMAN DUNN

Margaret Woodward and I were married in the Anglican Church in Edmonton on December 6th, 1939 and then drove back to our homestead in a '29 Chev, one dollar car. We had to do a lot of work to get a dollar and I spent every winter for the next ten years logging or skidding at some camp, such as Etter-McDougall, Carroll Bros., Emile Letourneau, Fred Ingstrom, Paul Moseson, Gus Peterson, George Cissel and a few others.

1949 was the last year I worked at logging. The winters seemed long and hard as Margaret and the boys were home alone. We always worried about the fires. With one person alone with several small children, a stormy night and a house on fire could be disastrous. But by 1940 there was a steady roar of lumber trucks hauling lumber from Carroll Bros., and Etter-McDougall sawmills, so help was not far away. Winter fires were a worry for all homesteaders and when we saw a glow in the sky we all raced toward it to help, if possible.

I recall when we had 27 acres cultivated and 3 children. We thought if we doubled the acres all would be good, but we doubled the family as well as the acres - not too profitable. So after that we concentrated on just adding the acres. We also kept a few bees, as many as 60 hives at one time. During the war when sugar was rationed, Margaret learned to cook with honey and the family is still very fond of it. Moonshiners frequently called hoping we'd let them have honey without coupons for their "mountain dew". I was bee inspector for the area for some years under Mr. LeMaistre, Provincial Apiarist at that time. Our second son Jim developed an allergy to bees and we eventually went out of them.

By 1952 our small house was bursting at the seams. In November of that year when our youngest son Tom was 8 months old, we moved into a new house. People asked us if we were building a hotel. It seemed large for those days, by today's standards it is only average. We had a light plant for electric lights and propane for cooking, so retired the coal oil lamp and the old wood box. Each improvement meant a step forward and involved much hard work and planning.

I worked out at carpentry in '52 and '53 and in '54 did cat work in the oil fields. I worked with cats for the next 5 years. In the meantime the farm was expanding and by 1960 I was able to stay home and get a few more cattle.

Margaret made all the boys snowsuits and parkas from heavy overcoats. They were plenty warm and usually stood up to the tests that they were put through.

With our changing times it seems that even the school routine must change. When our boys started school, at barely 6 years old, they walked or rode their bicycles 3 miles to the Maywood school. It was only in the coldest weather that I took them with the team and sleigh. Quite a difference from today, especially with the school bus coming right to the door for the beginners. They didn't have a problem with their clothes then as they do now. They wore the warmest clothes they could get and didn't have to keep up with the styles, which must be cold when the mercury dips to 30 and 40 below. They were glad to have these warm clothes, especially when the old pot bellied stove couldn't put out enough heat to warm the school. In 1954 with the changes being made in the School Districts, the children were picked up by the school bus and from then on attended the Winfield school.

They all finished grade 12 and Jim and Richard went to University for 2 years, but city life didn't appeal to them so they came home to the farm. Jim married Marilyn Fullerton in 1969 and they live beside us in their trailer. Marilyn is a Registered Nurse at the Breton Hospital. Tom and Richard live at home. The three boys and I operate the farm at present. Barry married Ellen Dragland in 1970. He works for Air Canada and lives in Leduc, but hopes to come home to farm in the near future. They now have a baby girl, born January 15, 1972. Our eldest son, David, married Yvonne Renault, and is presently working in Vancouver. Our only rose among the thorn's, Judy, is also married. (Mrs. Lyell Kerr). She is a lab and X-ray technician and has worked in various hospitals, at present she is at Breton.

by Norman Dunn.

ARTHUR BUNN:

Dad was born in Muskoka District, Ontario, in 1883. His parents were of English and Irish descent. They moved to Calgary, Alberta in the 1890's. He ranched for awhile near Cochrane with one of his brothers, and later had a homestead 8 miles southeast of Calgary. It was hard on cattle and ranchers in those times, and fortunes were made and lost in a very short time. In 1900, he moved to Dorothy, about 40 miles down the Red Deer River from Drumheller. There he spent his time as cowboy and foreman for Arthur Peak, who had a good sized ranch in the Red Deer Valley. He also rode and broke saddle broncs in readiness for the large roundups that were held between the ranchers for miles around.

By 1906 he had a second homestead and 100 head of cattle. That same year a large Cattle Company from Montana leased a large tract of land to the north, where they put up a good supply of hay. At the same time the Cattle Company was on its way with 10,000 head of Goose Egg cattle, (that is what they called their Brand). But, unknown to them, a prairie fire destroyed nearly all of their haystacks. The cattle might have survived but the winter of 1906 was a bad one, cold and stormy, so the old cows headed south again, 10,000 of the, and every thing in their way went with them, fences, haystacks and other cattle.

In the spring all that was left were piles of dead cattle, in fence corners, in the coulees and over the river banks. Practically all the cattle in that area were lost and so was another start for Arthur. But being a young energetic cowboy, that didn't bother him too much for soon after, he met a pretty young English girl, Sara Morris, fresh out from England, so why worry about a few dead cows.

Sara was born in London, England in 1881. Her father was English and her mother was close to being Irish. But don't worry, for it has been said that "an Irishman is almost as good as a whiteman, as long as he is sober"! Sara and one of her sisters decided to look over the promised land, so in 1907 they sailed for Canada. They landed in Montreal where they worked for awhile, but they soon decided to move west. Sara liked cooking and found that there was always work available wherever she chose to stop. They travelled to Sault Ste. Marie, Winnipeg, and finally on to the far western cow town of Calgary.

There were very few stores then and Pat Burns' house was the landmark of the day. They visited here several times. It was then that a friend asked Sara if she would go to a ranch and be a companion and cook for Mrs. Arthur Peak, which she did. Consequently, a green English girl and a cowboy crossed swords, and the fight was on.

They were married in 1910 at Peak's ranch, and soon after they settled on their homestead and tried to farm. But it was a hopeless task as the grass hoppers, gophers, and drought drove them and all other homesteaders out.

In 1920, Dad and Mother moved to Calgary so their five children could go to school. Dad worked 10 years for the C.P.R. in the Ogden Shops. In the meantime he arranged to buy back his old homestead, so the family moved to the country again. But 1929 saw the depression bring everything to a standstill. The Ogden Shops almost closed and hundreds of men were without work. This made it impossible to pay for high priced farm land so it was back to another homestead. This time it was Buck Lake. At this time the family consisted of five children: Ruby Cicely, (Mrs. Art Nickolson) born 1911, married 1929; Norman Alfred, born 1912; Kathleen, born 1914, died 1922; June, born 1917; Arthur Morris, born 1918; Barbara, born 1921.

In July, 1931 Dad, Art Nickolson and I headed for Buck Lake in a 1921 model T touring car. The rate of travel must have been considerable less than it is today, for the first night was spent on a lakeshore near Red Deer. The second night was spent trying to dry out a place to pitch a tent on Archie Alwoods place, near Jim McNaughton's farm today. Arriving at Pendryl on the third day they decided to look over the land north and west. A half mile north of the store camp was set up and the car left as this was the end of the road going north.

After a short ride in Louie Parkhouse's wagon, who owned a homestead two miles north, they spent two days with the Rockue family (then known as Rachel), who helped them around the country. There was a quarter available for homestead on the east side of Rat Lake, which is two miles north of the present Pendryl Store. They returned to Yeoford where Mr. Gillies had a sub-land office and Norman filed on the SW 27-46-5-5.

Having located a future home site we returned to Calgary and prepared to move. However, a short time later a notice arrived stating that another person had filed on the same quarter the same day, only in the Edmonton office. As Edmonton had priority over the Yeoford

office, the other party got the land. This meant another trip to the mud and sticks. This time Nickolson withdrew, as once was enough for him. So, Dad, Mother and myself returned for a second look. This time we stayed with the Parkhouse family. There were only two quarters open at this time and to make sure of getting them we made a trip to the Edmonton Land Office. Dad filed on the NW of 9 and Mother on SW 16 - 46 - 5 - 5. Later the NW of 16 was abandoned by a former homesteader so I filed on that quarter, which 40 years later, is still our home quarter.

So now once again returning home to prepare for the move that did come off.

by Norman Dunn

The Move to the Homestead:

It was Friday November 13th, 1931 when Dad (Arthur Dunn) and myself (Morris) finally got started on our way North staying with all the back roads so we weren't travelling on gravel with the horses. We had two old steel wheel wagons, one with a hay rack on and the other with a grain box, both well loaded with feed for our horses and other items which we were able to haul on such a trip. We had two horses leading behind one wagon and two yearling colts supposed to be behind the other, but the colts were not very well halter broken and gave us trouble for a while.

This was leaving "Rangeview" about seven miles south east of Ogden, (Calgary). The arrangements were made, and Norman Dunn, with the help of Art Nicholson and some of the neighbors were to get the rest of our belongings hauled in and loaded on a box car for the move. This included our few cattle, pigs, chickens, furniture, machinery, etc., etc. This was to leave a few days after the horses and wagons. The women and children being Mrs. Dunn, Ruby (Mrs. Nicholson), her baby, nine month old Ellabell, June and Barbara were travelling on the train as passengers. Art Nicholson travelled with the box car to look after the stock as necessary, and Norman travelled with the Old Model T ford touring car, a 1921 Model, loaded with whatever he could haul on that. As I can recall, if one of those old cars got going about twenty five miles an hour it was sure just about speeding and if the hills were too steep it was a case of turn around and back up as the gas was gravity fed and if the gas tank got lower than the motor it just refused to go.

To this time the weather had been very good to us, but by afternoon of that Friday the 13th, the temperature was dropping fast, snow started to fall, the wind came up. By the following day we were in a real blizzard. The temperature dropped to twenty below zero, and from that time on it was a mighty cold trip, and the old wagon wheels squealed every foot of the way as only old steel wheels in cold snow can. Travelling was slow and we would stop occasionally to let the horses rest while Dad and I would fake a little boxing match to try to warm up too. Kind farmers along the way were usually very kind and helpful to us for night time accomadations. On the afternoon of the tenth day arrived at Mr. Sundbergs place, being the last stop in the hills west of Hoadley before getting to Dick deLongs or Betlamini's. Mr. Sundberg fried us up a good batch of his Sour dough pancakes and strongly advised us not to try to go on further that day. We knew the rest of the family should be into the area by this time and would be expecting us along to help get moved from the railroad etc. Also this particular afternoon I was not feeling very well and just wanted to get the trip over with, so when Dad said: "How did you feel about it Skinny?" I said, "Let's move on." We soon learned that the old gentleman was sure right about it being too late in the day for that trip, as it soon started to get dark, the trail seemed to get narrower and narrower, more crooked and more crooked and more hills and more hills. Pretty soon the hay rack started hooking on trees more and more where there wasn't room to get through as this was only a winter time sleigh trail through the hills and finally we gave up with the hay rack outfit and left it behind. From there on I rode one of the horses I had been driving and followed behind the rest. Finally, sometime after midnight, Dads horses stopped ;in the dark, they had come to a gate in a fence across the road. Was that ever a welcome fence, and it was right at some buildings! "DeLongs".

Dad soon had instructions from Dick DeLong on how to get to our destination, The Kovar place, as it was known in those days, on the east side of Buck Lake where Fred Kuhn now lives. By two o'clock in the morning we were there and soon had our tired horses in the barn and fed. We kicked a hole in the snow and soon had a campfire going and a good old can of tea made, before we rolled our bedding out on the floor of the shell of a house. It was a large two story building with only the shell built, bare studding and no insulation. Can't you imagine how warm and comfy it was. Mr. Kovar had the house built to this stage when he was killed in his own

saw-mill. We spent our first winter in that house stoking up heaters with wood, so you can imagine how much wood and stoking it took. But the kettle still froze on the cook stove at night.

Morning soon appeared out of the darkness and we were on our way to the Parkhouse home where we found the rest of the Dunn family, the wagons were forgotten until Spring and with help of good neighbors with their sleighs and all hands on deck we were soon moved into our new home to be. The weather had turned quite nice again by this time for winter, but I am not sure yet how Norman ever sat in that old Ford for that trip without freezing right into it, for in those times there wasn't a heater, a defroster, a radio, or any of the modern comforts, and only curtains to try to break the wind off. Anyway it was so nice to be back together as a family that discomforts and inconveniences were soon overlooked.

Within a short time feed was purchased for the livestock and a wood pile gathered up and buzzed. I recall that one hay stack Dad had paid for was hauled away when he got there to get it. Later in the winter the door on a granary in the field was noticed open, only to reveal that the grain we had to tide us through was gone. These kind of things made one wonder what we were getting into. Anyway things were soon in order enough that Dad, Norman and Art were working at Art Burrows and Allen Siegel's sawmill on the north west corner of Buck Lake. I considered chore boy and used to drive up the lake with a team to bring them home Saturday day evening and take them back on Sunday afternoon.

Spring coming was such a welcome event, with the trees leafing out, all the little streams and creeks bubbling and flooding with water, the green grass starting to shoot through, the birds singing so cheerfully, and mud and water could splash most anywhere. That summer Dad cut a trail through the bush across the mile of Hudson Bay land which was to the west of the NW of Sec. 9, 46 - 5 - 5 which was his homestead. Many hours were spent trying to dig out and pull out those old Pine stumps to get a little clearing started. Little did we know that open looking spaces with those old burnt pine were the hardest to clear and the poorest soil when cleared, and how hard they were on the old harness and equipment, but live and learn they say.

That fall when our rent farming was under control and Norman had gone out harvesting to Lacombe with Hank Johnson to try to gather up a few of those scarce dollars to exist on, Dad started to build a log house on the homestead. We cut logs that were firekilled, hauled them out of the woods with a wagon and after awhile with the help of Ed Jost and Mr. Trabach it did shape up and a roof of second-cuts was on. Moss was poked into all the chinks and part of the family moved in while part lived back and forth for chores etc. until a log barn was quickly put together, some rails thrown on top and some hay piled over them for a roof.

Up until this time none of the local schools had operated in the winter months so naturally the school seasons were short and went right through the summer months.

June and I were offered the use of the Maywood school accomodation if we took our own desks and seats and supplied our own books. Although grade 9 wasn't taught, the teacher, Mr. Tanner, had said he would help out as best he could. A short try at this showed poor results so we waved good-bye to school days. Barbara carried on with school at Maywood, when she wasn't playing hooky with Norma Pocha down along the creek. Except for Haggkvist's to our north Pocha's were our closest neighbors and Barbara enjoyed a great deal of time with them. I am sure if we had todays modern methods then, that she would have come home sometime with her hair black and possibly braided. Pocha's were such a good friendly family and enjoyed music so. They passed the pleasure of their good music on to many of us at many a good house party.

At that time there was only one road, and that was from Winfield, west past Gus Bjur's store at Pendryl and on to Tipping's store at Buck Lake, known as Minnehik (Land of many spruce). Any other travelling was done on horseback or by wagon, over rough bush trails, winding around the swamps and through the creeks. The only summer trail from our land to Buck Lake went east to the Fraser or Rachel homesteads then swung northwest through the Voite quarter, Joe Calhoun's, Jack Sowles', Lester Barr's, Elmer and Oscar Rice's and on to Calhoun's Bay. The trail branched at Joe Calhoun's cabin and went southwest through Milo Sowles', Bill McFadden's and Joe Moonen's, then on to Haggkvist's and Kovar's on the east side of Buck Lake.

There was also a summer trail going north from Fraser's, through Ed Jost's and Joe Walters', northeast to Dick Shute's and finally to Jesse James' cabin at Poplar Valley. A lot of time was spent in travelling these trails hunting for our horses and cattle, as they were running at large. In many places the only fences were those around small fields of hay or grain.

There were no trails near Dad's homestead so we cut some to the east, south, and then to the west. We hauled quite a number of tamarack rails over these trails on our way to New Norway and Lacombe.

For four consecutive years, 1932-35, we drove to Lacombe with a team and bundle rack for harvesting. We would leave in August and return about November 1st. One year we stooked for 8¢ for every pound of twine used to tie the bundles. This averaged about 16¢ an acre, not much but then hogs were worth 5¢ a pound and oats were 5¢ a bushel. One year we received a horse for two days work with a team and rack but then traded the horse for one hundred bushels of oats. We also left a mare at Lacombe one fall to winter at a straw pile. Norman rode back to get her the following spring only to find that she had been hit by a car and had to be shot, and the long ride was for nothing.

The spring of 1932 we followed the trail of two of our horses south through the hills and were lucky enough to find them in a barn near Iola. We had them out of the barn and ready to return home before the would-be owner showed up. He argued about it for awhile but then realized we meant business. We left for home and took our horses with us.

During these times one might recall having worked and played in many ways and places. For instance logging for Letourneaus, south east of Pendryl, and the many house parties. Skidding logs for Henry Brown who logged for the Carroll Bros. on the west side of the lake for a wonderful 1½¢ per log, supplying our own horses, feed, and board. Those were the days, tramp all day skidding and then Norman and Morris walked across Buck Lake in a blizzard to get home to go on to Pendryl to a Nurses Benefit dance. How we ever got across the lake was a miracle and a relief to have the last 2 miles to walk home away from the lake.

The time Norman walked home from Burrows logging camp, situated about 8 miles north east of home, with hardly a trail and plenty of snow to tramp in and then on down to Longs to a house party to arrive at midnight. At least he had a ride home with the rest of the young ones, of the family when the party was over. Can you imagine what he went through when he started courting Miss Woodward? If he would go to this effort for a party even prior to that.

Hardships were laughed about, and fun and pleasures enjoyed as they came along. If a family went by team of horses on a wagon or sleigh in the winter with sleigh bells ringing to visit a neighbor it was a holiday. If someone came to visit, work usually stopped at that point, and soon the coffee or tea pot was on. (Usually there was enough coffee or tea brought out from somewhere for a special occasion like this, as the roasted grain, sometimes used as a substitute, was hardly fit to offer visitors. The 25¢ to buy a pound of coffee or tea was needed much more for something to wear, or perhaps a few nails or something of the sort. How well we recall a bachelor neighbor, Mr. Stephen who lived where Albert Glasel now lives, had walked over to our place. Mother and another visitor lady, offered him a piece of candy we happened to have a dish of. His face lit up like a bright sunrise and the expression "yeeesus" came out and one couldn't help but wonder when the poor fellow had seen candy last or next.

On one occasion Mr. and Mrs. C.B. Long came to visit when we lived in the original part of the old log house; one room and a bedroom partitioned off downstairs and the attic was partitioned off for 2 bedrooms upstairs. On this occasion we had a broken sleigh runner that had to be fixed as those sleigh runners were our only means of getting about, hauling feed, wood, and so on. It was bitter cold and stormy outside and no other place to work, so, in the house we were with sleigh runner torn apart all over the floor, chips and shavings, etc. all about, but we pushed things aside enough to get the door open and let our company in and had a good visit even in such a mess.

Often times Jack and Belle Sowles would come for a visit and Belle would play the piano (Mother's pride and joy for furniture). Mrs. Sowles was an old timer in this country compared to us. The trail that used to go north to get around the swamps between the bottom of the Pendryl hill and Jacksons used to wind up through Milo Sowles place after crossing Bob and Ebba Browns (that Jacksons now have) and sometimes through Jack Sowles to arrive back on top of the hill where Pendryl now is. People now would find it hard to believe that it was impossible to get through those swamps even on a saddle horse and the highway now goes through without a thought of swamps ever having been there. Arthur Dunn dug the first ditch through the swamp in front of Johnsons with a shovel and before he was through the shovel had cut through the bottom of his rubbers, but that was a start for draining that swamp which has now pretty well disappeared.

Most summers during these years were spent trying to get a few more acres under cultivation and thus reduce the amount of crop share farming. Clearing and breaking was slow when it all had to be done with axes and horses. We dreamt up the idea of a brush cutter made of logs in the form of an A frame with an old grader blade fastened to one side and pulled by horses (usually five horses). This did appear to help some in small brush but sometimes was debatable as the brush that was cut all had to be moved out of the way each time the horses and cutter came around.

Most falls, as quickly as our own harvesting operations would allow, some us would be off for the harvest fields to Lacombe or beyond which was one of the few ways of making a few

dollars. Usually, if we were lucky would net enough returns to buy some winter clothing and necessities in preparations for spending the winter in the woods logging. The sad part of it was that it wasn't unusual for men to spend a winter working in some of the mills or bush jobs and have nothing coming, in the Spring. We always came out more lucky than this however as we had our own horses and equipment to work as well.

Many experiences and stories could be related but this would likely make a lengthy book in itself. We could recall the days when lumber was hauled from Camp 1, where Ray and Helen Tompkins live, out to Pendryl with horses and sleighs, where it was dry piled along the road-side to be hauled Winfield the next summer if the roads were dry enough to let trucks through. Some of the teamsters used to stop over at Edwin Engbloms.

And then some of the road crews in the summer time. If you owned enough back taxes (nearly every one did) it was often possible to get a job on the road building, to work off the taxes. These crews usually consisted of fresnos with four horses on, or scrapers with two horses for short moves of dirt. For longer distances of moving dirt there would be a scraper team loading the wagons which consisted of the old high wheeled running gears with poles for the box so the poles could be lifted about to let the dirt fall off where it was required. (a slight difference from the equipment used today).

One might also recall the fact that cattle and horses were seldom fenced in, only the small fields and crops were fenced to keep the animals out. Sometimes it required hours of searching to find the cows to milk or the horses to work, and sometimes even days. It wasn't too unusual for an animal to be found in a "Soap Hole" as they were called then and sometimes only the head of an animal would be showing enough to get a rope or chain on, to pull them out with a team of horses. Sometimes the poor animals lived and sometimes they didn't. Fortunately we have never had this happen to any of our own.

One fall we sold two fine yearling cattle and a fine four year old heifer that had never been in calf, for forty dollars and this meant an all day trip to drive them to Winfield for that price. When we did get our house roof shingled it was with homemade shingles made by butting pine logs end to end and sawing nearly half way through with a crosscut saw every sixteen inches. Then with a planer that looked like a plow pulled with a team of horses, one horse on each side of the row of logs, and another row likewise along side to travel both ways on, the shingles really flew out at a rapid rate. When the bottom of the saw cuts was reached the logs were turned over and sawed in likewise from the other side to repeat the operation.

Fishing in the earlier years in Buck Lake was only open for Domestic fishing for two dollars a license and this entitled summer and winter fishing with a shorter, shallower and bigger meshed net than is used now but what lovely fish were caught.

Ruby had been married to Art Nicholson since the spring of 1930, farming in the next school district east of where we were at Rangeview. Ellabell, their daughter, was born the following March so was a few months old when we arrived in the Pendryl district. Ruby and Art parted ways about two years later. Ellabell known as "Ella" pretty well grew up with the Dunn family and took most of her schooling at Maywood. Married to Art Bosse in Edmonton, they have two boys of their own, one of them now married. For quite a few years now Ella has been passing out foods to thousands of customers downstairs in Woodward's, recently being moved to behind the Snack bar. Her cheery grin and laugh help everyone enjoy their food that much more. Ella's husband Art works as a driver for the Army forces in Edmonton.

Ruby started a Coffee shop at Buck Lake (then known as Minnehik) the spring of 1947. Her little business soon grew to where she needed more and more help which became more and more difficult to obtain until after a few years of this Ruby closed the Coffee Shop and re-opened as "Ruby's Gift Shop" and still operates as such.

Ruby and Dewey Woods were married in June 3, 1955 and have their own home right behind the Gift Shop. Throughout the years in between Ruby has done a great deal of cooking for restaurants, camps etc. One job Ruby cooked for was the road camp that built the first highway from Bentley to Rimbey. Their first camp was down on the river just west of Bentley and all tents, for the cook house, bunk houses and even tents for the horses and mules which were the complete power line then. There were no gas machines on those jobs for power.

One year when Ruby was working east of Lacombe a boil or something of that nature drove her to take Doctors treatments in Lacombe, but in spite of all her visits to them the neck was getting steadily worse until she could stand it no longer so it was on to the old train and up to Winfield where she hired Roy Gibbons (who had one of the few cars around) to bring her out home. Within a few minutes Morris was on his way to Pendryl to get our Faithful Nurse Conroy (with horses of course). Nurse Conroy was ready to travel within moments but of course even at that a three mile trip with horses still took time. The team acted up a little

on the return trip and frightened Nurse Conroy so fortunately we had a quieter team even if slower for her return trip. When Ruby was checked over it was back to Pendryl in a hurry for Morris and the horses to take a note to Mrs. Gus Bjur to get something from the nurses cottage to treat that nasty neck. Nurse Conroy came daily for quite sometime to treat the neck but improvement was showing very soon. Many of us have many good reasons for being so grateful to Nurse Conroy for being such a wonderful Nurse and always so kind, thoughtful and helpful no matter what the conditions, time, weather or means.

The community used to put on Benefit dances to raise funds for the upkeep of the nurses cottage and usually raffled a home-made wool comforter or something of this nature to help the funds. Often the dance would be a box and pie Social and any poor lad that had a special girl friend paid well for the privilege of having the special partner. These things all added to the enjoyment of the party. It was a sad day for the Community when people started bringing liquor to the dances and one night there was a little trouble. Gus Bjur said "Thats it, if people can't behave, no more dances". and he meant it.

June, now widowed was married to George Block. They raised two girls and one boy. Both girls are married with families of their own. Kathleen the oldest girl, lives on a farm just north of Edmonton. Elaine, the youngest girl lives at Red Deer. George Junior is not very stationary yet. June lives in Edmonton.

Morris and Barbara stayed with the folks on the farm, until wartime interfered. After the terrible fires in the spring of 1941 as shown in pictures Morris was reluctant to leave home without first clearing and breaking a strip of land as a fireguard to the north of the buildings. It was so very dangerous with no protection or break in the old windfalls, brush and grasses. This of course had to be done by hand. The stumps pulled with horses and then the breaking done with horses. These efforts always involved full family co-operation and once this job was finished it was time for Morris to move away. There were many good times and experiences had with the R.C.E. and why worry about those that were not so good. In April of 1945 he was posted to a Survey Unit at Reigate, England, soon to meet a young A. T. S. girl at a Legion dance, "Eileen Watton", a Driver Mechanic. The short time there was never to be forgotten for although Morris was soon to be moved on with the Canadian forces into Normandy and on and on his heart was still behind with Eileen. A trip back to her home on leave from Holland, coinciding with Eileen's leave, another leave on the way home from Western Europe, and then the long period until Eileen came out to Pendryl in August of 1951. That was her undoing. They were married in Edmonton Sept. 18, 1951. During Morris's absence overseas Mr. Dunn was ill and a farm sale was held after which Mr. and Mrs. Dunn moved into Edmonton to live with Ruby and Barbara. Barbara for some reason or another was lured to B.C. where she met and married Walter Scott. They live in North Surrey in a nice home of their own.

Morris drifted back to the old homestead on returning from overseas in 1945. Mr. and Mrs. Dunn spent some time back there with him periodically. Philip was born in 1953, Mary in 1956 and Ian in 1959. Health reasons for Morris forced them to leave the farm and they now own and operate the "Mountain View Store" in Alder Flats.



Shower held at the home of Mrs.
Eileen Dunn.



The fire that swept through this whole district in 1941. This picture taken on what is now the Community Pasture, north and north-east of Buck Lake.

The group who attended the shower for Christine Hansen: Back Row: Daphne Betlamini, Gloria Willows, Mrs. Donald, Mrs. Reay, Mrs. Rigby, Mrs. Hendrigan, Iris Jackson, Mrs. Dyvig, Joan Cartier, Mrs. Johnson, Mrs. Hellervik. Seated: Clarice Cartier, Lucy Betlamini, Mrs. Abbott, Mrs. Herman, Shirley Long, Ines Fraser, Martha Hansen, Mrs. Cartier, Margaret Dunn, Christine Hansen, Mrs. Kluczny, Elsie Plunkie, Mrs. Brown, unknown, Mrs. Walters. Children unknown.

Mr. and Mrs. Dunn senior, lived for a few years in a small house at Buck Lake, a time in Edmonton, and several years at Vancouver with Barbara and Walter. Mr. Dunn passed away in 1961 after quite a lengthy illness. Mrs. Dunn lived on there until returning to Alberta about five years ago. Since living with Eileen and Morris and family. We should call her Grandmother by now for she is a Great Grandmother and could quite easily be a Great, Great Grandmother. Grandmothers eyes failed her quite badly at an early age and in 1945 she learned to read "Braille" and since that time has done a great deal of reading with that finger. She also has stories on tapes through the C.N.I.B. which help to pass many an hour for her. Grandma keeps exceptionally well, looking after herself, climbing stairs, baking bread and so on, at the age of 90 years.

And so over the years we have seen this country develop far beyond any expectations of those early days, and may we hope the future generations may have equal satisfaction for their contributions and accomplishments.

by Morris Dunn

BERT DYVIG:

Bert and Ann Dyvig, with 15 month old Joyce, came from Drumheller in 1932. They built a log house, about 16 x 20, on SW 4 - 46 - 4 - 5, now owned by Terry Hendrigan. The house only had screen on the windows that summer. They came out intending to raise chinchilla rabbits and to homestead. They went back to Drumheller, where Bert worked in the coal mines for the winter, then moved out with a team the next spring after buying what they could that they needed. They only had \$3.00 to start out with, and on the second trip out, they only had 75¢. They had to stop along the way and milk a farmer's cow to get milk for the kids, and a bull chased them out of the pasture. It took them 10 days to travel from Drumheller to Winfield.

Butter in those days was 5¢ a pound, eggs 10¢ a dozen. The water supply was a spring, that is still flowing. They planted a garden and plowed with a walking plow. He walked behind harrows drawn by a team. Then they seeded their crops by hand. The only entertainment was ball games, fishing, dances and visiting. Their neighbors were Bert Shamps, Jack Goodkey, Bill Turnbull and Wests'.

Their second daughter, Joan, was born on the homestead in 1932 with "Granny" Goodkey as midwife. In 1935, Ann refused to have her third baby in the wilderness, and at the last moment insisted on returning to Drumheller where their son, Delmer, was born. The children all attended Poplar Valley School. Sometime in her early years, while berry picking, Joyce ate some poisonous berry found in the bush and very nearly lost her life.

In about 1939, they went into the chicken business, selling the eggs to the logging camps at 25¢ a dozen. They shot rabbits for chicken feed and ate some themselves. Some were also shipped to the fox farms. They shipped saw dust to the prairies where it was used for grass-hopper bait. Bert used to work in the bush for \$1.00 a day in the winter.

In the early '40s, they moved to the land now owned by Neil Van Gelder. They lost their house by fire but rebuilt on the same spot. They sold out in the '60s, moving to Killam where Bert owns and operates a pool hall.

Joyce married Emile Cartier. They have remained on a farm in the district since their marriage and have six children. Larry, a barber in Edmonton; Dale, a heavy equipment operator; Lyle, ranch hand at Wetaskiwin; Randy, Cheryl and Shelley all at home.

Joan married Leo Cartier. They farmed in the district for a time, then moved to Vegreville where they own and operate the Auction Market. They have eight children: Jimmy, in Edmonton; Wendy; Patsy; Sheila and Sharon (the twins); Bert; Terry and Shane at home.

Delmer married Vivian Swaile, they live at Camrose where Delmer manages a home furnishings store. They have two sons, Allan and Darrel, both at home.

EARLY SETTLERS - WEST OF WINFIELD:

Pete Francin:

Lived on Hog-back that ran out into the swamp in sight of Yeoford store at its old site
Woods:

Started a trading post on the west side of Pigeon Lake. His daughter married Meaver at Mulhurst.

Earl McKenzie:

SW 16 - 46 -- 4 - W5. Now Mrs. Eilleen Thronson property. Had 2 sons Jack (deceased) and Lewis. Earl was a fire ranger and later made his living as a truck driver.

Mr. Haley:

Lived at Maywood near Becks Store. At one time was Superintendent for Etter-McDougall's later owning his own mill

Grenke:

Bush foreman for Mr. Haley lived on NE 25 - 45 - 6 - W5 at one time owned by Nystrom and presently owned by Duffys.

In the mid 30's - the young people gathered together just east of Knob Hill, near the junction of Highways 13 and Yeoford road on SW 13 - 46 - 3 - W5, in a clearing to play ball.

EARLY SETTLERS - SOUTH AND EAST OF BUCK LAKE:

Mr. Swan:

SW $\frac{1}{4}$ 3 - 46 - 5 - 5, homesteaded later deeded to Mrs. Sam Weaver who in turn sold to Mr. Gust Bjur.

Mr. Len Tuppen:

SW $\frac{1}{4}$ 33 - 45 - 5 - 5.

Mr. Steve Maxwell:

Lived with Len for a short time.

Mr. Lewis:

SE 33 - 45 - 5 - 5, came and same time as Joe Betlamini.

Mr. Richard Delong:

N $\frac{1}{2}$ 32 = 45 - 5 - 5, is now owned by Kiss Construction.

Bert Taylor:

NW $\frac{1}{4}$ 5 - 46 - 5 - 5, later owned by Mrs. Wallbridge.

George Radford:

also lived on this land. Now owned by Kiss Construction.

Johnny and Joe Walker:

Charlie Kneiper:

SW $\frac{1}{4}$ 31 - 45 - 4 - 5. Married Freida, eldest daughter of John Adams. Land now owned by Roy Adams.

Lionel Shamp:

SE 5 - 46 - 4 - 5. Land now owned by David Willows.

Walter Ottiger:

also was at one time owner of this property

Cleve Dewar:

NW 4 - 46 - 4 - 5. Now owned by Stan Rigby.

Phil Wylle:

NE 4 - 46 - 4 - 5.

John Friedle:

SW 4 - 46 - 4 - 5, originally homesteaded by Bert Dyvig, now owned by Stan Rigby.

Frank Simonovitch:

NW 21 - 45 - 4 - 5. Lived here in 1930's. Raised pigs and sheep. Stayed about ten years and moved to Camrose.

Andrew and John Johnson

E $\frac{1}{2}$ 21 - 45 - 4 - 5. Made liquid refreshments. A story is told that there is a still buried in the swamp there and many people have searched in vain.

Jack Sowles:

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Sowles and son Ralph came in 1921 or 1922. Ralph married Pearl Sissons.

Carl Demars:

NE $\frac{1}{4}$ 31 - 45 - 4 - 5. Now Jack Goodkey

Frank Baily:

SE $\frac{1}{4}$ 31 - 45 - 4 - 5. Now Jack Goodkey.

Frank Stefan:

SE $\frac{1}{4}$ 9 - 46 - 5 - 5. Now Albert Glasel

Tom and George Clay:

Poplar Valley district

Martin Fabian:)

Tex Johnson:)

Keller:)

Oreilly:)

Julius & Ben Dahl:

NE $\frac{1}{4}$ 34 - 45 - 5 - 5. Now Betlamini Brothers

Wm. Stewart:

Homesteaded west of Pendryl about forty years ago. He recalls that he spent many years as yard forman at Carrolls planer mill at Winfield.

Oliver Jacobs:

Homesteaded one mile west of Jesse James corner.

Wm. (Bill) Cartier:

Sid Cartier's son. Married to Helen Johnson, daughter of Mel Johnson who ran the maintainer for many years. Bill played the accordin for dances in Winfield.

Edwin Engblom:

SE $\frac{1}{4}$ 3 - 46 - 5 - 5. Married Anne Sheflo, eldest daughter of Olaf Sheflo. Land now owned by Jim Peterson.

Ed Savage:

SE 27 = 45 - 6 - 5. Now owned by Wilson.

Mrs. Mohorstad:

NE $\frac{1}{4}$ 15 - 46 - 5 - 5.

R. Shute:

SE $\frac{1}{4}$ 27 - 46 - 5 - 5.

Eric Johnson:

SW $\frac{1}{4}$ 19 - 46 - 4 - 5. Alfred Cartiers property now.

Fred Winfield:

SW $\frac{1}{4}$ 2 - 46 - 5 - 5. Jim Peterson property now.

Meikle:

North of Buck Lake. Homesteaded in 1912. Came from eastern Canada. Had about twenty acres cultivated land. Sold hay by the stack. Four or five logs underneath to keep hay from damp ground. Buyer bought logs and all. Lived here until his death in 1939. Kasser-man now owns land.

Vince Nevis:

Mink rancher - came in 1940's.

Koblin:

Now Mike Thomas farm

McCallum:

Now Kasserman

Simmons:

Now NW Mike Thomas farm

Oscar Swanson:

Then Decorsey, veterinary from Rimbey early in century - across from C. Parker, taken over by Philip Wyllie

George Durone:

. 1920's

Tom Suluva:

1924

Matona:

1924

Swistowshi:

1927

Suidy:

1928

Olaf Sheflo:

1928

Dick Bowen:

Early homestead. Linton owned until 1930 then owned by John Parker.

John Anderson:

NW $\frac{1}{4}$ 31 - 45 - 5 - 5. Then Nels Wickman, now owned by Mrs. M. Beck.

Burtch:

NE $\frac{1}{4}$ 31 - 45 - 5 - 5. Came in early 1930's.

Larsen:

NE $\frac{1}{4}$ 32 - 45 - 5 - 5. Later Richard Delong home place. Larson and John Ille came together and stayed overnight at P. Bjur's. Larson got up in the morning - no sign of Ille. Said Larson, "I'll bet he has gone to file on my chosen quarter". Sure enough he had gone on foot to Yeoford where there was a Land Titles Office and filed on his homestead at Pendryl. The one Larson had chosen first.

McCurdy:

SE $\frac{1}{4}$ 36 - 45 - 6 - 5. Joe Laczko now owns this alnd

Bob Furlough:

NE $\frac{1}{4}$ 7 - 46 - 5 - 5. Fred Kuhn owner now.

Fred Furlough:

NE $\frac{1}{4}$ 6 - 45 - 6 - 5. Roy Berg homestead now. Brothers, and both came in 1912. Fred moved out 1915.

Bortnik:

NW $\frac{1}{4}$ 30 - 46 - 5 - 5. Later owned by Walter Oakes.

Pete Nelson:

1912

Herman Calhoun:

Herman and Bessie and son Joe returned here in 1946 to land his father had homesteaded in 1912 or 1913. Herman then homesteaded land that became known as Calhoun's Bay. He developed the water front into a fine boating and swimming spot. When he died it was sold to Kenneth Adams who in turn sold it to Dennis.

Pellon:

Homesteaded on east shore of Buck Lake. Mrs. Pellon died and was buried there some time prior to 1920

Pete and Merv Sinclair:

now owned by Norman Brown.

Alex Lepine:

SE $\frac{1}{4}$ 6 - 46 - 5 - 5. Maywood Cemetery is on this land, now owned by Mrs. Beck.

Adolph Carl:

SW 7 - 46 - 5 - 5. Property of Henry Scherlie now. He was a very eccentric person, one oddity being he kept a gallon coffee pot on the stove and added coffee and water until it wouldn't hold two cups of water, then emptied pot and started over. He died in 1922 at the age of 78 and was buried here. Later his adopted son moved his body to the U.S.

Edlunds:

Married eldest daughter (Ranghild) of Mr. Haggkvist and lived north of him.

Oliver Morin:

Nephew of Antoine Morin. Lived here late 20's and early 30's.

Bell:

SE 5- 46 - 5 - 5. Homesteaded prior to 1914. Joined army and never returned. John Anderson then homesteaded and resold to Mr. C.B. Long. Now owned by H. Long.

George Strattons:

Elderly English couple. Homesteaded NE $\frac{1}{4}$ 35 - 45 - 5 - 5. She had a wonderful memory and entertained groups with monologues.

Charlie Wetherall:

SE $\frac{1}{4}$ 32 - 45 - 4 - 5. Married Elizabeth Siegel. Now owned by Don Goodkey.

Harold Wetherall:

SW $\frac{1}{4}$ 32 - 45 - 4 - 5. Now owned by Dianne Pickup.

WE

Emil Metzner:

NW $\frac{1}{4}$ 32 - 45 - 4 - 5, now owned by Don Goodkey.

Tom King:

Acted as banker in early days for the lumber jacks.

Bill Steer:

NE $\frac{1}{4}$ 9 - 46 - 4 - 5. Came in 1918 or earlier.

Charlie Prince:

NE $\frac{1}{4}$ 10 - 46 - 4 - 5. Stopping place for everyone travelling further west. Now owned by Nelson Handbury.

Longstaff:

SW $\frac{1}{4}$ 15 - 46 - 4 - 5. Bert Dyvig owned this property for a time and resold to present owner Neil VanGelder.

Jefferson:

SE $\frac{1}{4}$ 14 - 46 - 3 - 5. (Still called the Jefferson hill). Now owned by Dennis Broderon

Frank Dixon:

Tom Wilson:

Dave Mathews:

NE $\frac{1}{4}$ 18 - 46 - 4 - 5. Now owned by Paul Sluchinski.

W. A. Brown:

SW $\frac{1}{4}$ 14 - 46 - 4 - 5. Now owned by Dennis Broderon.

Frank Cook:

SW $\frac{1}{4}$ 32 - 45 - 4 - 5.

Carson Bortenhausen:

NE $\frac{1}{4}$ 19 - 46 - 4 - 5. Now Walter Kluczny.

Jervel Maddocks:

George Shriggley:

NE $\frac{1}{4}$ 12 - 46 - 3 - 5. Now Ken Odegard.

Archie Alwood:

SW $\frac{1}{4}$ 13 - 46 - 3 - 5. Now Lew Spence.

EARLY SETTLERS EAST OF C.P.R.

A.

Harry Asher: married Lily Bowman and live a ways north of Mrs. Ida Bowman

Bill Adair: farm previously owned by Bill Kanda after Harold McIntyre, 2 miles north of Norbuck. NE 15 - 47 - 4 - 5. Adair's have second had store in Breton now.

George Askew: a bachelor on NW 31 - 46 - 3 - 5.

Carl Anderson: of Knob Hill sold his homestead to Falconberg in 1935. He built a trailer to move back to California and died while he waited for papers to come through.

Bertha and her daughter Betty Ann Anderson: bought NW 36 - 46 - 3 - 5 from John Kuigstad who is now living at Metiskow. After a few years on the farm, they sold to Chas. Stores of Calgary who in turn sold to Moe Litvak. The Andersons make their home in Edmonton.

Preacher Burwash of Ponoka held meetings through out these areas in the early days.

Bucholtz: lived near Bloomfield Lake

Bob Brown: Poplar Valley, two sons Bob living in Nelson, B. C. George killed in an accident.

Louise, Mrs. Henry Larson at Breton. Wilda - unknown.

Frank & May Breckon: NE 24 - 46 - 4 - 5. Margaret, Mrs. Ivor Baldwin in Edmonton, Gladys, Mrs. Stan Panek at Red Deer.

Tom Bolt: came to Wenham Valley, about 1920 where Mr. Bolt passed away. They then moved to Knob Hill area in Red Hall on corner SW 25 - 46 - 3 - 5, also onto SE 13 - 46 - 3 - 5. The children attended Wenham Valley and Seattle schools. Fred, married to Ida - unknown, Geraldine lives in Wetaskiwin, Olive, Ivan - interested in radio and was always tinkering on radio & crystal sets, also a set of twins, names unknown.

Fred Belluve: passed away late 1940's while he lived on corner NW 35 - 46 - 3 - 5. Previously he and his brother lived north of Yeoford.

George, Wilma, Margaret Berg: were orphans who lived with their Aunt-Mrs. Hastings and attended school.

Bucher: homesteaded on SE 12 - 47 - 3 - 5, in old Wenham Valley district, now Yeoford.

John Birro: (Hungarian) lived on NW 19 - 47 - 3 - 5 in the sawmill days. Three children: John, Priscilla, Margaret. The family moved to Ontario.

Mike Block: the family homesteaded SE 13 - 47 - 4 - 5. He married Betty Impey after her husband Jim died. She had large family George, Mae, Effie, Betty, Annie, Mary and Jim Junior. Mike and Betty have three children Walter, Frank, Shirley. Walter and Frank remained on the farm with their dad.

Bearchill: Wenham Valley on Sam Wheales, Doreen, Gwen, Maureen went to school at Wenham Valley.

Hugh Bakermans: lives at Norbuck on SE 34 - 46 - 4 - 5.

Baker: Mr. and Mrs. in the 1920's lived on NW 9 - 47 - 3 - 5. One son attended Modeste Valley school. They had a garden and a few acres cleared plus a binder and team of horses. About 1925 they left and Mr. and Mrs. Walk rented the farm a couple years from the Municipality then moved west of Breton where he died. After this Mrs. Walk lived with her son Harold Cambridge on NE 4 - 47 - 3 - 5.

C.

Bill Craig: was a barber in Winfield about 1925. He now lives in Edmonton. One daughter married Chuck Hyer, who bought the "Chris Jensen" $\frac{1}{4}$ SE 36 - 46 - 3 - 5. He runs cattle in the summer and spend their days off on the farm. Chuck had the Auto Body Shop at Merners in Wetaskiwin till it burnt down in 1970 and he went to work in Manitoba for a short time with plans to return in 1972 to Alberta.

Jack Campbell: of Wenham Valley taught Raulston family how to saw down green trees. Coal oil on the saw stops tree pitch from sticking to it. It also cuts grease accumulation on pails.

Ted Chapin Sr.: father homesteaded NE 31 - 46 - 3 - 5 in the late 1920's.

Pete Campbell: first fire ranger, came to Wenham Valley in 1913, married Kathleen _____, a nurse in the General Hospital in Edmonton in 1929. They had two children: Barbara, married Dick Radke now living at Peace River, Gordon living at Hinton. Pete left the Forestry in 1948 and went to Brazeau Colliers. He passed away at Nordegg in 1957. Kathleen lives in Hinton. Pete's sister Jessie was with them alot, also a school chum Margaret Shantz, of Wetaskiwin spent a lot of time in Wenham Valley area. Margaret first came to her friend in 1915 and returned on a regular basis. She married Ted Edwards in 1918 and now lives in Edmonton. Pete's brother Angus Campbell married Edythe Bunker.

R. Cormack's: now make their home where the Battle Lake Post Office stood for years on NE 7 - 46 - 1 - 5.

Jack & Georgina Chorney: bought NE 30 - 46 - 2 - 5 and had two boys Jimmy & Bobby. Jack and the boys now live at Alsask, Saskatchewan.

Holgar Carlson: family on NW 32 - 46 - 2 - 5 homestead.

Bill Chequrin: was a trucker. He lived with his family in Battle Lake area. One daughter Audrey _____? lives at Brightview.

Erle Coombes: now lives on NE 26 - 46 - 3 - 5. Previous residents were Marcellus family, John Astle family, England, Hansen, Fitzgerald

Andy Carlson: farm ME 23 - 46 - 3 - 5, has since been farmed by Mr. Brown, Hermansen family, now owned by Roy & Molly Hawkins family.

Maude Clouis: married Bill Lyster (Lyle's brother) and they live at Donalds. Maude formerly of Norbuck,

Ted Chapin Sr.: his father homesteaded in the early 1930's on NE 31 - 46 - 3 - 5. Later sold to Willie Heatherly who sold to Raymond Matthews.

D

Mary & Albert Darrow: moved to W $\frac{1}{2}$ 16 - 47 - 3 - 5 Wenham Valley from near Calgary in 1929, had a few cows and chickens and grey team of horses. He was an enthusiastic gardner and sold vegetables in Breton with his Model T Ford. They also took advantage of wild fruit. They sold in 1937 and moved to Langley Prairie, B.C. where they passed away. In the early 30's, he hauled lumber from Mortimers lumber camp in Winfield.

Everette Dau: NE 2 - 47 - 3 - 5, bought from Wes Mason. Mrs. Mason was a music teacher.

E

Jack Evans: family lived in Yeoford and Battle Lake area. Their family Raymond, Evan, went to Seattle school.

Carl Elder: came from Seven Persons, Alberta to SE 24 - 47 - 3 - 5, where he lived for several years.

Gus Emberg: is an early homesteader who lived on SW 6 - 47 - 2 - 5 and now makes his home on NE 36 - 46 - 3 - 5.

Evelyn Gitzell: and family lived at Fisher Home for several years after her husband was killed.

Fowler: family came to the Battle Lake area in later years. Dean and Golede now live at Dray-

Audie Fitzgerald's: dad drove truck when they lived in Winfield. They came from Stettler.
Tom & Mary Flint: homesteaded on NW 31 - 46 - 3 - 5. She was the Norbuck Postmistress for awhile and also taught at Antross school. Their son is engineer at University of Toronto. He was working and partly responsible for designing inventions of tools used on first rocket trip to moon.

Larry Guard: of Spruce Hill S.D. north west of Winfield won second prize for the province in the 1953 poster contest sponsored by the Canadian Forestry Association.

G

Nick Gurgish: and family homesteaded SE 34 - 46 - 4 - 5. They had two children Steve and Margaret. He worked at D.R. Fraser's mill. They sold to John Basaraba a bachelor.

Gillard: Wenham Valley, Jim Gillard worked in the coal mines. Winnie attended Wenham Valley school.

German's: built on Walter Baynes land. Lawrence and Louis went to Wenham Valley school.

Gamble: In 1914 the Gamble family homesteaded NW 16 - 47 - 3 - 5. A boy went to school at Modeste Valley. Florrie was a baby. Mr. Gamble hauled freight from Wetaskiwin to the Yeoford store for J.P. Nowell. They shipped cream from 30 head of cattle. In the fall of 1925 the family moved to Florida for health reasons.

Philip Ginther: family homestead on NW 28 - 46 - 3 - 5, in 1910 the Knob Hill area. Minnie married Alfred Engler and Laura married Art Ellingson.

Wallace Grant: SW 10 - 47 - 3 - 5.

Tiny Gilchrist: engineer for D.R. Fraser mill, played on Fraspur Team.

Glanfield: family, some of girls still live at Bluffton. Brian is on Holman Island, N. W. T. The family came early 1920's to Society school area south of Winfield

Roy & Bill Gibbons: had mink farm east of Albert Nadeau's house on shore of Battle Lake till about 1939. Bought up all old horses for mink feed as well as netting fish for them.

Gilmore: family lived on SE 5 - 47 - 3 - 5. Bob and Mary Toews and family live there now. Mr. Gilmore played for dances. Molly attended Wenham Valley school.

Jack Hammit: The family came about 1905-10 to west end of Battle Lake on SE 28 - 46 - 2 - 5 on the hillside overlooking the small lake on north side of Mount Butte. Later George Moyer owned it. Callies family lived with Moyer for a few months then moved to SW 30 - 46 - 2 - 5.

Hewlet: SW 5 - 46 - 3 - 5, lost his life in World War I. Harry Francis moved on to this later. Its now owned by A. L. St. Denis. About 1920.

Harry Hamblin: Wenham Valley

Hallgren: family - Winfield.

Hook: 1910

Harder: lived at Knob Hill north of Seattle school - left before 1919.

Hudson Bay Company: claimed Section 8 and 3/4 of Section 26 in each township.

Harrison: of Knob Hill on NE 21 - 46 - 3 - 5. After a few years the family sold to Art Norman, who sold to George (Faye Platz) Chudeck who sold to John & Betty Vandersteen.

Joe & Ingaborg Hansen: and family bought the municipal buildings location east end of Battle Lake below Wilber Kimmy. He worked away from home. Hans, the oldest, joined the Navy in World War II, Mathilda, Elizabeth, Lloyd and Ernest and Mary Ann went to school at Cree Valley.

Hays: a bachelor lived west of Ings at Norbuck

Honeycutt: in early 1900's on SE 6 - 46 - 3 - 5 later owned by Lester Francis son of Harry Francis.

Alec Hay: from Manyberries, Alberta came to Norbuck to SE 1 - 47 - 4 - 5. He was partly blind but did some carpenter work and also kept bees.

Grenfell Hoath's: were settlers living on NE 14 - 47 - 4 - 5, after the highway went through. They have four children Merit, married Linda, Samel, Lorraine, Colleen, Roland. Their house hit by lightning and a fire was started in a mattress on the bed however they were home and dragged the mattress outside. They left about 1964.

Ralph Hansen, lived on NE 13 - 47 - 4 - 5. He went to Breton with horse and a stoneboat for groceries. Were only here a few years.

Arnold & Betty Hoyme: and family lived on 7 - 47 - 2 - 5. Called it Wenham Valley Ranch - in the 1960's.

Ralph Hamilton: drove truck for Etter-McDougalls for six years from Fall 1945 to 1951. Also drove for Les Parker of Alberta Box, drove cat for Harold Hansen skidding at McDougalls camp #9. He married Lillian Traback. They have five children and the family are now living near Quesnel, B.C.

Hughes: Mr. Hughes worked in Carl Rostead mill, but lived near Wenham Valley school which Nora attended.

Fred Hein: family left their home on NW 27 - 46 - 3 - 5 about 1950.

Harry & Leona Hartley: lived in a small house on Elmer Baumann's and owned NE 28 - 46 - 2 - 5. They now live north east of Edmonton.

J

John Jancy: lived on NE 10 - 47 - 2 - 5. They had three children Victoria, Jim and Frances. After selling to John Baumann family they moved to Millet.

Leroy & Gladys Johnson: and family lived SE 22 - 46 - 2 - 5 across the road from his parents who lived on the A. C. Bunney farm and Stopping House on NE 22 - 46 - 2 - 5. The Stopping House had been supplied, with running water from a spring up above for many years. Leroy was an only child. Gladys & Leroy have three boys. Merle & Dennis who are married. Larry still at home. They now make their home in Wetaskiwin.

Oscar Johanson: family homesteaded on NE 31 - 46 - 1 - 5.

K

King: left before 1925

Kanda: When the Norbuck was booming there used to be a garage on the corner of NW 2 - 47 - 4 - 5 now owned by the John Kanda, former Finn McNabb farm. The Kanda family came to Norbuck around the 1930's. He was a coal miner. They had three boys, Pete on SE 8 - 47 - 4 - 5. Bill on SE 15 - 47 - 4 - 5, and John on NW 2 - 47 - 4 - 5.

Al Kaiser: lived on SE 36 - 46 - 4 - 5 before Roger Theroux.

L

Lysing: One or two miles east of Winfield in the early 1900's.

Oscar Listy: had wood saw outfit and cut and shipped dry wood from Norbuck on the C. P. R. One day his big black stallion he used to skid logs into the saw with, slipped and fell into the saw and was cut in two. Mr. Listy also did woodwork.

M

Ed Mauer: homesteaded E $\frac{1}{2}$ 27 - 46 - 3 - 5.

Milks: family lived in Knob Hill area in the 1930's, they moved around some.

McKenzie: Knob Hill.

McLean: Knob Hill, 1910

Maynard: family had Knob Hill store and post office on corner of NW 22 - 46 - 3 - 5 when John Stone family took over they moved the building over to their buildings by the creek.

Mahoney: had first Post Office at Knob Hill in 1910.

McIntyre: homesteaded N $\frac{1}{2}$ 12 - 47 - 3 - 5, near Wenham Valley

Henry Miller: and wife homesteaded Yeoford 1910, NE 14 - 46 - 3 - 5.

William Milton: family homesteaded her in the early 1900's. Mr. & Mrs. Milton passed away March 16, 1948 and July 28, 1957. Lloyd, Bill, George and Jim. Jim passed away before 1970.

Joc McFadden: homesteaded on SE 21 - 46 - 3 - 5 in the early 1930's. He married Bessie Moss Her uncle started the original Loblaw's food store. Her Dad started a business and gave Mossley Alberta its name.

Phil & Mary McGovern: lived 5 miles south of Yeoford on a homestead. When they retired they moved to Winfield where she passed away. He still makes his home among friends there.

Harry Moore: lived on NW 30 - 46 - 1 - 5, until the 1930's. Later owned by Len and Edith Arnold who sold to S. Comm and he sold to Wm. Runte. Mrs. H. Moore now lives in Creston, B. C. Eddie Rivers was there before Moore's.

Earl McNeil: family were at Anthonys camp at Antross.

Roy & Kay Matheson: and son Ken have E $\frac{1}{2}$ 14 - 47 - 4 - 5 came from Calgary and are farming.

Dave McClure: and brother worked for Walter Fullerton mill, originally. Homesteaded land near SE 18 - 46 - 2 - 5 and died here.

McNabb: pioneer family lived on SW 2 - 47 - 4 - 5 at Norbuck. The four youngest children were: Milly, Grace married Albert Low, Bob married Dot Nelson and they live in B. C. now. Finn married Margeurite Mockerman at Langley, B. C.

N

Ed Nadeau: married with three children, Phyllis, LaRenne and "Bud" lived on SE 24 - 46 - 2 - 5 just below, Cree Valley School. He sold his farm to Christ Hamerl who in turn sold to Ross Beath in the 1950's. Phyllis and Ken Hunter have Hunters Lumber east of Ma-Me-O Beach, LaRenne and Ralph Bidinger; have Service Station at Ma-Me-O Beach. Bud and his family have the General Store at Westrose.

John Neison: Battle Lake

Eric Norlin: bachelor - homesteaded 1900's SE 25 - 46 - 3 - 5, built a nice lumber home. Raised sheep. On retirement about 1950 he moved to Winfield across the corner north east of the school site.

Nilsson: family lived at Yeoford on SE 13 - 46 - 3 - 5. Later they moved to Battle Lake. George married "Dolly" Harris of Yeoford and have made their home on SE 16 - 46 - 1 - 5.

Nickels: family lived on NE 27 - 46 - 4 - 5. He asked the C.P.R. to fence for his livestock - 1 rabbit. Mrs. Nickels died on the homestead. Mary, the oldest, went back to England. There was another girl and a boy.

Roy Neal: stayed with Henry Miller's at Yeoford.

Arvid Nelson: he was a cook for D.R. Frasers camp. They now live in Breton. Their only daughter Thelma, lives at home.

O

Oscar Ostrum: came to Knob Hill area in 1930 and bought NE 22 - 46 - 3 - 5. He worked in the lumber camps. He thought he'd stay till times got better and still lives on his farm now retired. Hagen lived there before Oscar.

Chauncey O'Brian: They lived at Yeoford.

Lawrence & Dorothy Prentice: and family lived at Norbuck on NE 36 - 46 - 4 - 5. They cut dry stove wood and shipped it out by the car-load on the C.P.R. Now live at Red Deer. Brother Roy lives west of Breton, not known where Wesley and the sisters are.

Ploughman: family were great dancers, one of the girls married Hubert Warner, brother of Charlie and Fred. The Warner's homesteaded on NE 23 - 46 - 4 - 5. Bill Corbett married Ethel Warner(Hubert's girl).

Peterson: family homesteaded NW 18 - 46 - 1 - 5 in the early 1900's. Left for Camrose district in the early 1920's.

John & Ruth Pankhurst: and boys of Edmonton bought Eric Norlin's from Stewart. SE 25 - 46 - 3 - 5 at Yeoford about 1970.

Peterson: family 1910, SW 12 - 47 - 3 - 5, left before 1919.

Paulson: family in early 1930's. SE 7 - 47 - 2 - 5. One daughter Bertha taught school in the nearby schools.

Proxie: lived at Knob Hill, north of Seattle school

Lloyd Polischuk: wed Jeannette Pearson who was time keeper for Pearson lumber.

Edgar Powell: family lived on acreage NW 35 - 46 - 4 - 5. There were four boys, 2 girls; Reg, Loni, Charles, Cecil, Elizabeth. They trapped for a living. Bert Abbott and Art Jones built his home. One girl was married before they came. Powell brothers played on Fraspur ball team and was almost a team themselves.

Parson: lived on SE 5-47-3-5 and taught Sunday school at Norbuck.

R.

George, Mackie & Percy Russell: three brothers, homesteaded SW of Winfield for a spell, Percy and family moved to "Sanford Nelson homestead" homestead NE 23 - 46 - 3 - 5 where he passed away. About 1965 Mrs. Russell sold to Tom Thurber and family. Before the Nelsons it was owned by Hubert and Charles Warner.

Ernest Russel: a bachelor, lived just east of Ralph Burris at Norbuck(no relation to other Russells) in Wetaskiwin now.

Ringborg: family, daughter Mrs. Anna Flotre of Breton

Frank Rath: came from Nova Scotia to Hoadley, then to Norbuck where had a store and post office. School was held in his home until Norbuck school was built

Jim Rathcliffe: on NE 34 - 46 - 4 - 5 just across the C.P.R. tracks at Norbuck. He raised bees and sold honey also.

Remple: family homesteaded in Norbuck area. John married Jean Gormley, Corny, a bachelor, Harry, Mary married Harry Walcott east of Breton.

Red Cross: Funds in World War 1 were raised by Pork & Bean suppers, 25¢ each or a Basket Social. Now in 1972 you can expect to pay \$1.25 per person. Local banquets are usually served at \$1.75 per person.

Rooyackers: brothers, Anton and Bill married Broks sisters. Anton and Jans were married in 1947 and came on honeymoon to Norbuck, Canada. They settled on SW 6 - 47 - 3 - 5 where the family are farming. Bill and Helen came later and settled on SW 36 - 46 - 4 - 5 where their family are farming. Their uncle Hugh Bakerman homestead is SE 34 - 46 - 4 - 5.

Dr. John and Sylvia Round: Veterinary lives at east end of Battle Lake and has been serving this area for sometime now. One of their problems is having to cope with the party line. He is kept very busy and enjoys his work.

S

Charles & Thelma Sparrow: family moved from Olds one spring to SE 28 - 47 - 3 - 5. There were four children Violet, Dorothy, Laura and Eugene. All attended Wenham Valley school. Their team of horses were bought at Hamels Auction Sale. They sold wood delivered at Breton. Violet married while here. Mr. . Sparrow worked in Calgary for a time then moved to Regina

where he was caretaker for a large hotel. Violet and family live in Calgary. Dorothy married John Sommers of Warburg and now live at Whitecourt and have a family. Laura and family live in Manitoba and have 2 boys. Mrs. Sparrow is deceased.

George Shave: came to NE 27 - 47 - 3 - 5. He married Nellie Clark from Leduc and started housekeeping in his tiny home. Then he bought NW of 27 and built a new home. They have 2 boys and 2 girls George Jr., Doreen, Shirley and Bobby. They had several hens and sold eggs to Breton. Also milk and cream from the cows. Also raised sheep. George Jr. and family recently returned from B.C. to his farm on NE 38 - 47 - 3 - 5. Doreen married Ken Hellervik of Poplar Valley. They have two children. Shirley married an oil worker and is now living in Edmonton. Bobby is married and due to his job moves a lot.

Shosler: bachelor, NW 14 - 47 - 3 - 5 in the 1920's to 1929. Dugald Gillies now owns it.

Harry Stelfox: lived on the south side of Battle Lake about 1915 where he enjoyed living close to nature. He is famous for his writings of early history. Where he lived isn't sure but was in the NE portion of T 45 - 3 - 5. He wrote his autobiography and sent it to Ottawa.

Sampson: lived on SW 25 - 46 - 1 - 5, later owned by Albert Bachand and now owned by D.M. Blackmore.

Winfield Smith: Kerry Wood says in his book that Winfield Smith named Winfield, Alberta

Bill Stewart: lived just west of Jessie James.

Scott: family in the early 1920's on SW 30 - 46 - 2 - 5. One blind boy went to school in Red Deer and took a trade. They lived here before Laurie "Red" Higgins came.

Snyder: lived at Knob Hill south of Seattle school

Sid Satcherill: family lived on NE 26 - 46 - 4 - 5 before Art Jones family. Son Walter married Joyce Abbott. Irene lives in Calgary. Sid played the bones at the dances.

Roy Spencer: at Yeoford 1952 - 55 in old Police Barracks on NE 30 - 46 - 2 - 5.

George Shriggley: Knob Hill, went back to States because of long illness.

B.J. Shamp: family west of Winfield in 1930's.

Shroader: a bachelor near 34 - 46 - 2 - 5.

John Schieffert: lived between Norbuck and Poplar Valley. One daughter died and he was killed in a truck accident. Also had a son Albert.

Clifford Summerville: lived NE of Winfield on homestead

Wilf Smith: raised and born in Coumts, Montana and moved to Bow Island, came home from World War II and came to Winfield. Bought a lot in Winfield where teacherage now stands. Worked there for a few years then came to Crystal Springs to work for Howard Shepherd on his chicken ranch. He met Alice Kimmy and they were married later and make their home on SW 30 - 46 - 1 - 5.

T.

Tom Thompson: family SW 5 - 46 - 3 - 5.

Don Tarney: pioneer laborer in this area for quite some time.

Wm. Thomas: and his wife who had homesteaded took over janitor service at Winfield amalgamated school and carried on here for many years. They have now retired and reside in Winfield.

Tom & Jessie Thurber: a welder first came to Yeoford and settled on NE 14 - 46 - 3 - 5. Emil Anderson's bought from Ed Young. They moved to Winfield later and then bought from Percy Russell where they now make their home. They have two boys. Tom is busy commercial welding and also has beef cattle.

V

Ralph Viegan: his father had sawmill with Art Ellingson east of Twin Lakes

John & Betty Vandersteen: and family settled on NE 21 - 46 - 3 - 5 at Knob Hill.

W

Wick's: homesteaded NW 23 - 46 - 3 - 5 about 1920's.

George Wrought: a homesteader at Yeoford

Fred & Rosemary Wiebel: of Switzerland came to Canada, then to Wetaskiwin area in 1970. In the spring of 1971 they bought SW 25 - 46 - 3 - 5. The Olin homestead and moved out to their new home. Fred is a carpenter.

Mrs. Addie Walters: and family. N $\frac{1}{2}$ 4 and SW 9 - 46 - 1 - 5, farmed from early 1930's.

Mr. Woodbridge: owned a garage in Winfield.

Rev. Reg and Betty Weston: and family first lived at Norbuck in a wee house on Ralph Burris then moved to NE 2 - 47 - 4 - 5 where they lived till they left in 1940's. Peggy died in a fire, Barbara married Elwood Huntley, Billy married daughter of Carl Keiser, Wilma was a baby when they left.

Wickstrom: on NW 23 - 46 - 3 - 5, early years.

Willett: lived near Winfield in 1920's. One girl unfortunately lost an eye with a pair of scissors.

Frank Ward: a bachelor, came to Yeoford in 1912 or 13 from New York. He had a hole cut in the bottom of his door. A board to fit the hole hung on strings and swung like a pendulum winter and summer so the cat and dog could go in and out as they pleased.

Additional Settlers:

Borzel: family now own Fredericksons Service Station.

Dave Doze: family on SW 15 - 46 - 2 - 5.

P.M. Fischer: family live in Winfield.

Fowler: Mr. Frank and son Eddy on W $\frac{1}{2}$ 16 - 47 - 3 - 5 for two years then moved to Ferintosh.

John & Ethel Frederickson: in Winfield retired from the garage and service station.

Kels & Gertie Hagen: and family live on SW 1 - 46 - 2 - 5.

Joe & Lillian Imbery: and family moved to SW 2 - 47 - 3 - 5 in spring of 1968 known as ~~the~~ Earl Horner place.

Manfred Luebke: and family live on the Ralph Harris homestead.

Harvey & Kathy Olson: and family ran the Battle Lake garage and Coffee Shop for sometime.

Harvey passed away on July 22, 1963. Kathy makes her home in Wetaskiwin.

DAVE EASTMAN:

Dave and Ellen Eastman homesteaded overlooking Battle Lake about 1905, coming from the States although Mrs. Eastman was an Eastern Canadian. Their children were Annie, Nellie, Martha, Francis, Alvin, Jim, Palmer (Frank) Nat and _____.

Martha married Nels Christenson, a hair dresser who owned a Beauty Parlor and other property on Whyte Avenue in Edmonton where they made their home.

Nellie married an R. C. M. P. and lived in Winnipeg. She was a photography finisher. Annie (or May) became a teacher and her husband was head of a shoe department for either Eatons or Simpsons in Toronto.

Jim went overseas during the First World War and later farmed in the Peace River area.

Alvin married Naomi Pearl Parsons, from California and drowned in Battle Lake shortly after. He is buried beside at least one of his brothers on the original Eastman homestead on the brow of a hill overlooking Battle Lake.

It is now owned and operated by Wilber Kimmy but a fence still stands around the grave.

Francis married Ralph Harris who homesteaded in the Knob Hill area. He also was a camp cook. Their children were Fred, Alice, Dorothy, Jim, Ellen, Raymond and Doreen.

Dave broke his land with oxen and also used them for skidding logs and road building in the Battle Lake area.

ELLIOTT BROTHERS:

Tom, John and Archie Elliott came to Yeoford area in early 1900's, and took our homesteads. Their parents lived here for a time too, until their death. Archie homesteaded SW 2-47 - 3 - 5. The homestead Tom had was on NW 32 - 46 - 2 - 5. John lived with him. They



built a tiny low log cabin with a small window and a dirt floor. They loved to read. Tom was kicked by a horse and crippled. John cared for him until his death and buried him on his homestead, their parents were also buried there.

This little cabin still stands today beside the octagonal home, built by T. J. Gronow family who also lived in the little cabin until their new home was finished.

Built by Tom Elliott:

This is the Tom Gronow's octagonal homestead house and the old cabin both built by Tom Elliott.

ERIC ENGBLOM:

In the spring of 1920, at the age of sixteen years, Eric Engblom left Sollften, Sweden, with his brother, Adolph, to come to Wetaskiwin. Seeing an uncle, Edwald Haggkevist, he decided to go by wagon to visit relatives in the Buck Lake area. Taking three days, and unaccustomed to such roads, he vowed he'd never return to the area. However, in the same fall, he changed his mind and filed on his homestead SE 4 - 46 - 5 - 5.

Two years later, he built a lumber frame house from lumber sawed by Burrows and used a spring as a source of water supply.

In 1930, he left behind his neighbors, George Berg, Joe Betlamini, Gust Bjur and Ed Irwin and sold his homestead to his brother Edwin.

Some time was spent around the Wetaskiwin area, helping his brother Adolph on the farm prior to leaving for logging in B.C. He returned to Alberta and was foreman for his brother John in the tie camp.

Meantime, Edwin Engblom had sold the homestead to Bror Johnson which in turn Eric bought back.

Edwin's building spot remains today, with a portion of the barn, the shop and the house being used. Additions have since been made to the shop and the house.

Eric returned in 1942 to farm, and married Karin Olson of Knob Hill, formerly of Hellsingland, Sweden, in April 1944. Issue of the marriage were Victor, born in 1945 and Rita in 1946.

Eric and Karin retired to Wetaskiwin in January, 1969. Rita married Tony Vitale in 1969 and lives in Vancouver. Victor married Jeanette Mockerman in 1967, and was blessed with a son, Todd, in 1969. They have taken over the farm with several buildings of the old homestead remaining in use. They also have a daughter Michelle Louise born in November of 1971.

Eric's first home is used as a granery and thus his first venture on his homestead in 1922 is a landmark from one of our early pioneers to the Pendryl area.

EDWIN ENGBLOM:

Edwin Engblom visited Canada in 1922, returned to Sweden and came back to Pendryl in 1924. He worked for John Engblom feeding cattle and putting in the crop. Edwin also broke some land for Ben Stady the same year.

In 1925 he went to work in B.C. and stayed there until 1930. At this time he came back to Pendryl and bought SE 3 - 46 - 5 - 5, and farmed it until he sold in 1935.

Edwin then filed on a homestead, SE 3 - 46 - 5 - 5 on which he broke ten acres. From here he moved to B.C. where he now lives in retirement.

JOHN ENGBLOM:

John Engblom was born in Solefteo, Sweden August 16th, 1891 and came to Wetaskiwin in 1913.

He homesteaded on the NE 5 - 46 - 5 quarter at Pendryl in the fall of 1914. There was a little house by the creek (on Berg's farm) that had been vacated by a previous settler. John and his brother, Adolph, lived there while they built a log house, which is the living room and bedroom of the present farmhouse. The nearest neighbors were a bachelor living on Henry Scherlie's present farm. Gust Bjur moved to the next quarter in 1915.

On their first trip to find a homestead these two brothers, newly arrived from Sweden, had to spend a night sleeping outdoors by their wagon. When the coyotes, very numerous in this bush country, began to howl, they were frightened and decided to take turns staying awake with a rifle for protection. However, they both fell asleep and woke up to bright sunshine the next morning.

When John and his brother moved here from Wetaskiwin in November, they had two

teams and wagons, one belonging to Alex Edlund. The trail used by the settlers then, went through Hoadley. This trail had been made by the Fraser Lumber Company. There were no settlers between Hoadley and O'Meara's (then George Bergs). On this trip they left one wagon at Hoadley and used four horses on Alex Edlunds wagon to get through the muddy swamp land. Several times they had to unload the wagons to get through. It took four days to make the trip from Wetaskiwin.



John Engbloms Threshing Outfit:
Art Burrows on Machine, Henry Brown
and Cliff Berg standing.



John and Mrs. Engblom about
1925, with Walter and Verner.

The road from Wetaskiwin went as far as Knob Hill. There was a road allowance cut from there to the west. This was to enable the timber which had been cut to be taken out. Other than that there were no roads in the district. Settlers travelled trails from one farm to another. John remembers going through eighteen gates between Winfield and his home about 1920.

There was a post office at Minnehik run by Mr. and Mrs. Tipping who were the first white people in the district, coming in 1907.

John left the farm in April 1917 and went to work in B. C. for a year. On returning to Alberta, he bought a farm east of Wetaskiwin.

In 1922 he married Evelyn Olson and their first son Walter was born on the farm in Wetaskiwin. In 1923 they returned to the farm at Pendryl.

They had eleven milk cows and eight horses. Cream was sent to Hoadley and brought \$1.75 for an eight gallon can. They churned butter to sell at the store. Once the store couldn't use the butter so they took it home and used it for axle grease.

John started a tie camp south of Winfield in the fall of 1924. The first ties were used to build the railroad from Hoadley to Breton. The first train came through Winfield in the fall of 1926. Ties were also sold to Pembina Valley and the C. P. R.

Later he had a sawmill. Alfred Engler sawed at the mill and took his wages in lumber. From this Mr. Engler built his hardware store in Winfield. This is one of the oldest buildings in Winfield today.

During the '30s John was road foreman, in charge of building some of the roads and bridges in the area. As these were depression years, not much money was available for the road work.

He was the first to grow clover in this area about 1937. He noted that the heavy clay soil, after being plowed for many years, became baked hard. Remembering how back in Sweden clover had improved the soil, John decided to try some here. It proved to be very successful.

In 1939 he bought Gust Bjur's quarter across the road.

It was a terrible shock when Mrs. Engblom died in 1938, leaving John with nine children all under sixteen to raise. Many housekeepers worked in this home through the years.

In 1943 John bought a house in Vancouver, B. C. Some of the family received their high school education there.

Walter, the eldest, operates the farm. He married Ruby Warren from Alder Flats, and their family are Sidney, Melvin (married with 2 children), Arnold, Dennis and Rosealee.

Vern lives in Vancouver.

Ruth married Ernie McNiell and have two sons, Danny and Robert. They live in Los Angeles.

Kenneth lives in Winnipeg.

Helen married Clayton Cuthbert and resides near Montreal, Quebec.

Mary married James Peterson and with their family, Evelyn, Donald and Sharon live at Pendryl.

Ivy married Mike Kurley and with two children, Michael and Colleen, live on a farm at Warburg. Ivy has also taught for many years at Warburg school.

Elsie married J. L. Seely and with their children, Regan, Russell, Lyle and Nancy, live at Alder Flats.

John has taken a trip back to Sweden in 1929 and again in 1958. He has retired and lives in Vancouver but enjoys a trip back to Pendryl in the summer, and finds there are many changes in the district with better roads, power and telephones in most of the homes.

ALFRED ENGLER:

Alfred Engler came to the Pendryl district in 1919 where he homesteaded with a partner. Engler, who operated a business in Winfield, practised at every opportunity the sport that held so much appeal to him that he decided to come into the area in the first place. Engler

came to the Winfield area because he wanted to be near forests that held lots of game.

His home was in the states, and when he heard about the new country in Canada and Alberta, he decided that that would be the life for him.

While he and his partner, Emil Metzner homesteaded at Pendryl, they spent much of their time hunting moose, elk and deer. They enjoyed the work and they looked forward to their excursions into the timber to hunt game.

Mr. Engler's partner was killed in B. C. in 1927. Mr. Engler then moved into Winfield and soon started the Hardware store that he operated until his death in 1964.

Mr. Engler used to spend much time snaring coyotes. They had to go all the way to Wetaskiwin for snare wire, and as a result, they used all sorts of wire.



Mr. A. C. Engler, seated on the left, with two hunter friends near Pendryl in the early 1920's. The other two gentlemen are John Ille and Emil Metzner.

Besides being an ardent hunter, Mr. Engler was an ardent fisherman, as a matter of fact, Mr. Engler was an all-round sportsman. He had a cottage at Buck Lake, took many long trips to the Rocky Mountain House district for stream fishing, and went into the bush each fall for wild game. He took his friends and a packtrain, and they usually headed for the Brazeau. Mr. Engler enjoyed hunting and fishing, and he also enjoyed the fruits of his hunt - the wild meat and tasty bird or fish he had won. He stated that he had only twice returned from a hunt in the bush empty-handed.

E. F. ERICKSON:

Eric Folke Erickson was born in Falun, Sweden on November 16, 1895 and emigrated to Canada in 1911. Mrs. Erickson, born Jennie Liveltun in Bardu, Norway on May 27, 1893 came to Canada in 1913. After working in Canada and the U.S. they met in the Peace River country of Alberta and were married in 1930. Two children were born to this union; a son Gordon and a daughter Arlin Mae.

The family made several moves. After a stint of homesteading in the Grande Prairie area, and farming on the prairies of eastern Alberta, they moved to the Westeros district in 1937.

Another move took them to NW 10 - 47 - 3 - 5 in the Wenham Valley district where they

lived for a year, 1939 - 1940. Gordon attended the Wenham Valley school, taking grade 3, with Miss Viola Swanson as the teacher. She boarded at the Ericksons during the school term.

The farm SW 16 - 46 - 1 - 5, east of Battle Lake, Gustav Hawney's, we rented and eventually purchased, and here the family lived until Mr. Erickson's retirement in 1954 due to ill health. The farm was sold to Victor Fontaine who is the present owner.

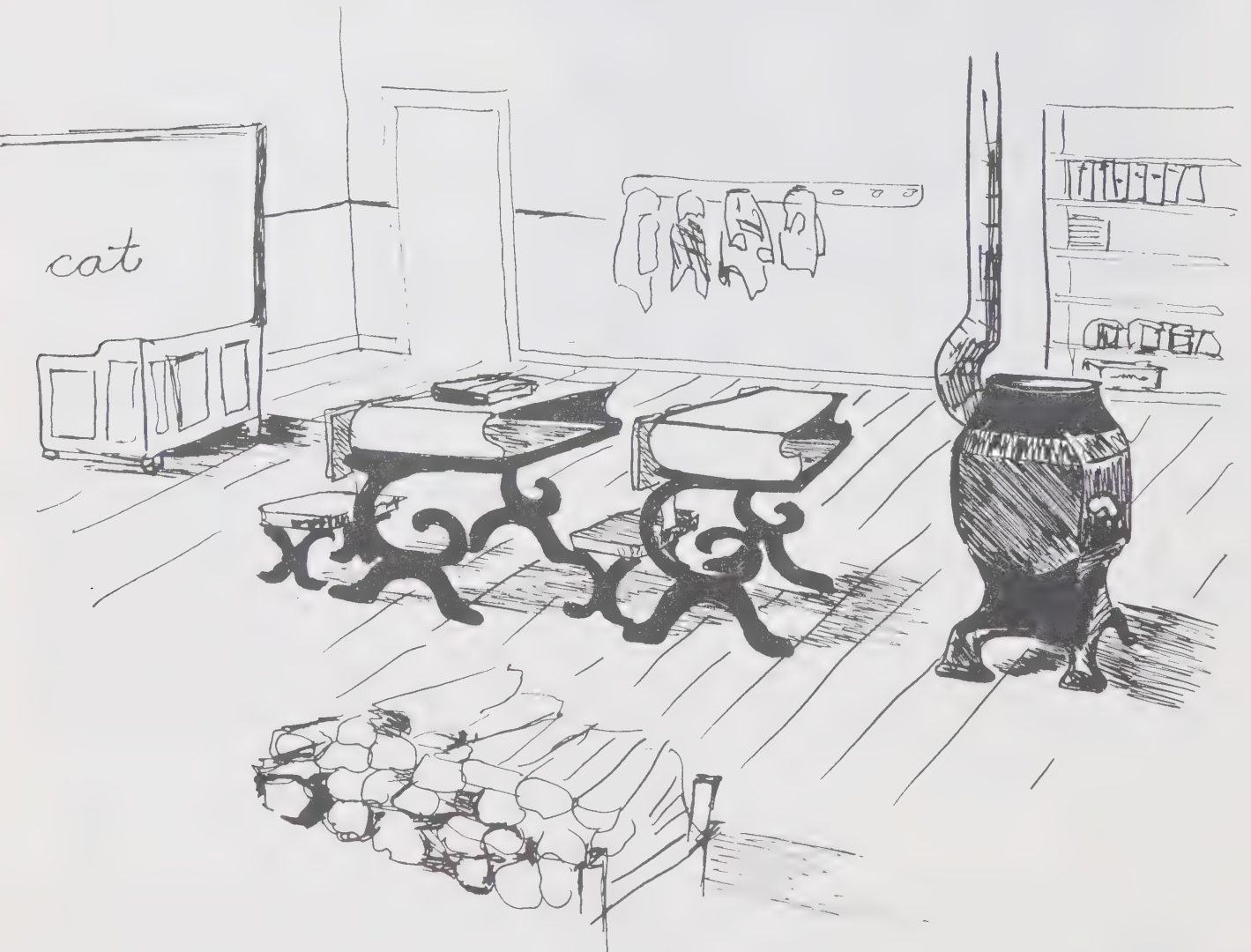
Presently, Mr. & Mrs. Erickson are retired, living in Falun, Alberta. Their son Gordon also lives in Falun and is employed in the oil industry. He is married and they have three children. Their daughter Arlin Mae is Mrs. Alfred Breitzkreuz and they farm in the Lone Ridge district. They have a family of four.

JACK EVANS:

Born in Argentina in 1895, John William Evans came to Canada in 1902 and to the Battle Lake and Yeoford area in 1923 where he was employed as a carpenter.

He was married and they had three sons. Evan and Edward (now both deceased), Raymond, now at Sioux Narrows, Ontario, Delma, their only daughter, is married to Bill Halisheff and lives in Edmonton.

Jack Evans passed away in May 1964.



FERN CREEK #4348:

Fern Creek was built in 1930 on Joe Kobeluk's, then a bachelor. Named by Mrs. Baker because of all the ferns around there. It is just outside of Wetaskiwin County No. 10 boundry but it drew students from within our area. It was a Municipal district then.. Some of the teachers were : 1931, Miss Siren, Miss Marr, Miss Mildred Smith (wed Jim McCallister), Arthur Baker (his mother named the school) in 1939 June Bradenberg, 1940 Margaret Jones.

A new Fern Creek school was built a short ways away. It was only used a short while when it was moved to Warburg.



Fern Creek School about
1939:

The pupils who are shown in the photo on the left are:

Shirley Ladd
Verna Matthews
Ray Matthews
Jean Matthews
Cecil Ladd

GEORGE FINK:

Mr. Fink has been a professional photographer for many years and started photography when going to High School in Michigan.

Coming to Alberta he taught school, four months at Richmond and started photography again.

He bought a grey pony that carried him and his photographic equipment over many a mile. His materials were purchased in Wetaskiwin and posted to him at Battle Lake because much of his early work was in West country.

Joe Cowan was running the mail at that time as far as Yeoford in 1912. George spent a good deal of time at the lumber camps making postcards of the men working here -especially at Fullertons camp and Papineau's men. Most photo's taken were sent to wives and sweethearts in the "old country"

Some of the difficulties encountered in making photographs were:" I used root houses for dark room, taking my lantern into them, and developing films and making photographs. From proofs I got orders and after making prints I got the cooks cleaning towels and placed them on a rack and laid out the postcards. To wash the photos I placed them in running waters of the nearby springs". He says for every \$5.00 worth sold, there was about \$2.00 in direct expenses as well as indirect expense of wages. He figures he made \$3.00 a day right through, higher then the \$840.00 school teachers were getting.

Apparently his photo's were well received but on one occasion a man from the "old country" was taken bearded and in jeans holding a trout fish and sent it to his fiancée in England. After getting the photograph the girl returned his engagement ring to him.

George Fink was a keen hunter and also keenly loved small fruits and cultivated many in his garden. He still lives south of Falun with a daughter, Mrs. Mona Bolton.

ALDER FLATS FISH AND GAME ASSOCIATION:

This association, sometimes referred to as the "Fish and Game League", had its beginning in the Autumn of 1934, according to a letter dated April 29, 1946 from George M. Spargo,

Secretary of the Alberta Fish and Game Association.

Mr. Spargo stated that during a visit to his office by Baron Von Kruedener, the subject of organizing a nucleus of fish and game enthusiasts was broached and then and there Von went back and the first local, I believe, had nine members.



Rt: Fred Doerr

Lt: Baron Von Kruedener

First Chairman and Secretary of
the Alder Flats Fish and Game
Association.

By 1936, the new League had twelve members with Von Kruedener acting as Chairman, and Fred Doerr as Secretary.

The early meetings were held at settler's cabins along the Wolf River, the hosts being Von Kruedener, Fred Doerr and Dick Cyr. The topics were local problems, the new Alder Flats-Wolf River Game Preserve to dissections on ungulates by Von Kruedener who was well versed in animal husbandry.

A hiatus occurred to the fledgling league the next three years due in part to the death of Von Kruedener in December 1936. Fred Doerr maintained a continuance with the Alberta Fish and Game Association and with occasional meetings.

In 1940, the operations of the League became centered at the hamlet of Alder Flats which resulted in an influx of new members and with them, a broadening of interests in wild - life and its environment.

The membership has fluctuated over the years, reaching a high of over one hundred members during the "Oil Boom". Buck Lake (Minnehik) has always been well represented with support from Winfield and other points.

Credit must be given to the late George Spargo who was a constant friend and mentor to this League for many years. He was always attentive to the many demands from this West Country, which he, it is assumed, entitled the "Alder Flats - Minnehik Reserve".

And finally, tribute must be made to the many members, the Chairmen and Officers who have contributed so unselfishly and generously of their time and talents to the furtherance of the objectives and well-being of their League.

by John O. Anderson.

ALBERT FONTAINE:

Albert Fontaine came to the Wetaskiwin district in 1901 from Stens Point, Wisconsin, U.S. A. and then moved to the Rosalind district in 1903. He met and married Miss Olive Thebeau on April 9th, 1910. They were blessed with five children Joseph, Victor, Mae, Olive and Leo. They lived in the Rosalind area for 37 years. Then on June 7, 1930 they moved onto and homesteaded land at Battle Lake. In 1936 they bought the quarter on which now stands the Battle Lake Store and garage, and made that their home. They ran the garage for many years.



Four Generations of Albert
Fontaine's - 1961

Albert and Olive - Great Grand-
parents.

Joe and Florence - Grandparents

Merlyn and Gladys - parents of
Joanne.

Joseph married Florence Deatrich and now farms at Bloomfield Lake. They have 5 children. Victor married Alexandra Deatrich (a sister to Florence) and live at Battle Lake, farming post business and also drive school bus to Lakedell and Pigeon Lake Regional High at Falun. They have eight children. Mae married Herman Doble and they have 1 child. They made their home at Battle Lake where Herman passed away. Olive married Wilfred Meyer and make their home east of Ma-Me-O Beach. They have 3 children and he drives a school bus, farms and have a very popular family band. Leo married Darlene Hagen and make their home at Battle Lake and have two boys. Leo has land clearing machinery and keeps it busy. Albert and Olive celebrated their 50th anniversary in 1960. Albert passed away in the 1960's and Mrs. Fontaine is making her home in Camrose.



Albert Fontaine - 1908 8



Albert Fontaine and his son, Joe Fontaine:
Sawmill in 1934



Fontaine Brothers:
The beginning of the pole business - 1949

JOHN FONTAINE:

John and Dorey Fontaine came from Rosalind to Pigeon Lake just north of Victor Leonhardt's, in 1918 and worked for P. J. Mullens at his sawmill. In late fall of 1923, he cut logs and floated them in a boom behind a row boat down to Ma-Me-O for the Log Cabin Hall, then went back to Rosalind to farm.

Albert Fontaine, his son Joe and a cousin came in 1928 on a hunting trip and fell in love with the country. In 1929, we homesteaded NW 16 - 46 - 1 - 5. Our son Merlyn Fontaine lives there now. Joe's homestead SE is now owned by Art Pahl. The rest of the family moved out June 7, 1930. He had come west with team and hired a neighbor to help. Then Joe took him home. Out east a bad dust storm hit and they had to stop. When the dust cleared, they were right up against a telephone pole. Four years later, 1934, they bought a 25-75 Case steam engine. Frank Papineau, Joe Fontaine, Benny Beard and Vic Fontaine went to Rosalind to bring it out - 100 miles in 11 days. A real hot time in July and they almost cooked.

May, Olive and Leo went to school at South Pigeon Lake and later Olive and Leo went to Cree Valley. Albert passed away in 1965. George and William (lived on gravel pit road) came 1931. Both died in early 50's within one year of each other. Mrs. Albert Fontaine now resides in Camrose. Her maiden name was Olive Thebeau. Her brother, Eli Thebeau's son Elmer is married to J. P. Nowell's grand daughter, Eva Elliott.

The roads were so bad, lots of rain. Up to 1935, we couldn't get out with the car until the first week in July. Had to go by team and buggy or on horseback.

Ole Berquist owned Joe's land before Joe homesteaded it. Ole is now at Alder Flats. Hjelmer Nilsson owned Albert Fontaine's land before Albert homesteaded it. Hjelmer lives at Grande Prairie now. Albert and son bought a sawmill from Pete Olson by Lone Ridge Hall and rebuilt it. It burned down. Then they made one and sold it to Peg Leg Durant at Buck Lake.

Joe bought a little steam engine 15-45 Case from Pampough Bros. at Galahad in 1936 and bought a mill from Ed Torris and sawed lumber until 1939, then sold it to George Kimmy and made a lath mill. Sawed until 1942, sold the lath mill. Vic Fontaine built a garage by Battle Lake in 1936, sold it to his dad in 1937. The store was built by John Fontaine and his son George, cousins of Albert Fontaine in 1934. Joe and Vic bought the store at Ma-Me-O

Beach from Larson. Joe sold his timber on our place to Paul Moseson in Wetaskiwin. Paul and his crew logged and sawed it while we were living at Ma-Me-O. Some boys broke the glass window in front of our store and stole quite a few hundred dollars worth of merchandise so we sold the store to Bob Linsey. We moved back to our farm starting in the lumber business again. Bought an old truck in 1949, thus began the telephone pole business, also started a herd of cattle in 1958. Joe retired in 1970. Son Merlyn took over the business, lumbering, poles, posts and rails. Vic Fontaine and family picked blueberries and sold them to make payments on the truck and went into the telephone pole business, then posts also and bought two school buses. He and his son Mervin are still in this business along with the school buses.

by Joe & Florence Fontaine.

LEO T. FONTAINE :

Leo was born at Rosalind, Alberta April 15, 1928 and came to the Battle Lake area with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Albert Fontaine, when he was two years old. He attended school at Cree Valley which meant a long walk night and morning.

Darleen was born at Wetaskiwin, Feb. 13, 1933 and is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Carl Hagen of Battle Lake. She attended school at Peaceful Valley to grade eight. At this time the schools were consolidated, making a large school now Lakedell, where she took high school to grade eleven.

After leaving school Leo worked at such jobs as logging, trucking and caterpillar operating and Darleen did clerking and office work.

The two were united in marriage on June 28, 1952 at First United Church in Wetaskiwin. A short honeymoon at Banff was enjoyed and their home was made in Ponoka for a few months where they both were employed.

In the fall of 1952 Leo and his brother-in-law purchased a D6 caterpillar and started working for oil companies. At this time Leo and his wife moved onto his parents farm at Battle Lake. In January 1955 Leo purchased his brother-in-laws share of the equipment and stayed in the oil business and land clearing for 15 years. During these years he purchased his dads farm and 2½ quarters of adjoining land and accumulated a herd of Hereford cattle.

Leo and Darleen have three sons, Bradley, born April 26, 1955. Kevin, born Jan. 26, 1957 and Noland born April 12, 1963. All three children attended Lakedell Elementary school and Pigeon Lake Regional High School.

The whole family enjoy outdoor activities such as fishing, boating and snow mobiling.

FOREST RANGERS: ALDER FLATS AND DISTRICT:

This is not a complete list of all the Forest Rangers who have served in this district, it is the best that can be compiled from the data available.

1910 - 1930: Van Valkenbert; Webster; Tipping, Dalton.

1930 - 1940: Bowman; Bergquist, O. G. ; Beatty, George; Somers, Thomas F.

1940 - 1950: Somers, Thomas F. ; Genick, Wm. ; McAlpine, Stewart; Verhaghe, M. ; Burleigh, J. H. ; Mawson, Robert; Millott, Edward; Adams, J. W.

1950 - 1970: Adams, J. L. ; Moss, Ray; Woodman, Desmond; Tessmer, Mel; Russell, Richard; Schauerte, Otto

Towermen - Fire Lookouts

1952: Curran, Charles

1959: Minor, Robert

1970: Kramer, Ernest L.

by J. O. Anderson.

4 - H ACTIVITY WEST OF THE FIFTH:

The Winfield and District 4-H Beef Club was started in the fall of 1961 by Norman Dunn, with 21 members. Meetings were held in the Winfield School with Mr. Dunn as leader and Walter Engblom as Assistant Leader. This started as a feeder calf club, the only one ever tried in Alberta. Owing to difficulty of judging, it was changed to a finished beef club the next year. The club extended from Battle Lake to Buck Lake and from Norbuck to Haadley.

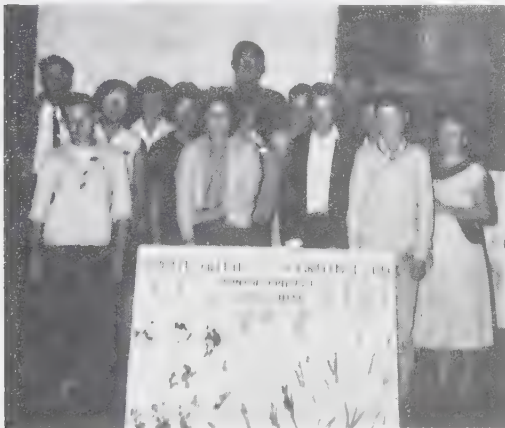
In the fall of 1962, three clubs were formed, with Mt. Butte, Winfield and Maywood. For Mt. Butte, Roy Midtdal was leader and is still the leader, and Virgil Blackmore was Assistant leader until last year. For Winfield, Harold Kluczny was leader, and Nelson Handbury as Assistant until 1968 when Mr. Handbury took over as leader. In the Maywood club, Norman Dunn was leader for four years with Walter Engblom as Assistant from 1961 to 1964. Harvey Sharp took over the leadership from 1965 to the present with Henry Scherlie as Assistant from 1965 to 1971, when Tom Dunn was made Assistant.

In 1963-64 Alder Flats formed a 4-H Beef Club. The leaders included Lou Seely, Schyler Durant and Lars Larson. In 1962, Norbuck formed a Field Crops club under Tom Channey, Wheat Pool Agent at Breton, as leader. About 1965, a multi-club, beef and grain, was formed with Mr. Impy as leader. The last three years have been straight Beef. There was also a grain club at Mt. Butte in the spring and fall of 1961 under the leadership of Virgil Blackmore. The Clubs now extended from Battle Lake to Alder Flats. By having four clubs instead of one, more parents were involved, to become leaders and assistant leaders, and it gave four members an opportunity to become Efficiency winners and attend club week at Olds or Vermilion.

The first Achievement Day was held in Buck Lake at the Stampede Grounds. For the next three years, the show and sale was held in Winfield at the Stockyards of the Blindman Valley, using their scale, come rain or shine (mostly rain). Under the sponsorship of the Lions Club the Winfield Community Centre was started, with a portion of the grounds set aside for a 4-H show ring and covered pens. Much work went into this project by the Lions members, 4-H members, and interested community members. The U. G. G. donated several gallons of paint to each 4-H club, which was used as a centennial project to paint the corrals and pens.

A sales committee was formed from the leaders, junior leaders, and Adult committee members to organize the show, sale, and pot luck dinner. The Wetaskiwin 4-H council was too far away, so they donated fifty dollars to form a council in this area, which has been carrying on very successfully for the past four years. The purpose of this council was to bring 4-H members together so as to organize inter-club activities.

The District Agriculturalist, Mr. William Proctor, gave valuable assistance over the years at sale time and calf judging tours, etc. The Dept. of Youth has now taken over from the D. A. and operate from Red Deer for this area. Over the years, many trophies have been awarded to 4-H members by various businesses and interested members of the community.



Mount Butte - 1st 4 - H Club:

Back: Virgil Blackmore, Leader;

Stu Fraser, judge; Bill Proctor, D.A.

Centre: Barbara Thomas, Joan Johanson, Mitzie Stone, Judy Stone,

Doug Baumann, Billy Blackmore, Betty

Bunney (assist. leader) Front: Jim Thomas, Carol Caine, Cliff Bunney, Dennis Baumann.



First 4 - H Feeder Calf Club - 1962

Achievement Day held in June.



Winfield recreation ground 4 - H
Achievement Day - 1969

1

4

WINFIELD & DIST.
4-H BEEF CLUB

2

3

SHOW and SALE

1. A good crowd, lots of interest was shown.
2. Grand Champion, Melvin Engbloom, Maywood Club.
3. Reserve Champion, Bob Blackmore, Mount Butte Club.
4. Champion Showmanship, Allen Midtdal, Mount Butte.

Clubs competing in the Show and Sale were
Winfield, Mount Butte, Maywood and Alder

In 1955 the Buck Lake Sewing Club was formed with Mrs. Mary Haley as leader. In 1958 Mrs. Leta McNaughton became leader with Mrs. Fullerton as assistant. They planted flowers in front of the Buck Lake School. In 1959 Mrs. Barbara McLeod became leader with Mrs. Frickie as assistant. It was now a clothing club in the winter months and a garden club in summer.

In 1961-62 Mrs. Shirley Cripps was leader of the Home Decorating Club in the Winfield area. A multi-club was formed in 1962-63 of Food and Clothing under Mrs. Helen Sanders as over-all leader with Mrs. Ann DeLyster as Clothing club leader and Mrs. Margaret Dunn as Food club leader. Next year there was just a Clothing Club with Mrs. Dunn as leader and Mrs. DeLyster assistant. Meetings were held in members homes and achievement day in Winfield School Gym with Home Economist Shirley Myers as judge.

Due to lack of members and some girls joining the Beef clubs, the Clothing club disbanded and was not formed again until 1971-72 under the leadership of Mrs. Lucy Betlamini.

HARRY FRANCIS:

After many dry years on the prairie, Dad accepted the government's offer to take up a new homestead, our reason for coming to the district. We arrived while the railroad was under construction. Lester took the stock and furniture around by Wetaskiwin. Mom, Gene and I

came to Hoadley by train, Dad had come out earlier. We were met at the train by Mrs. McNabb who had a boarding house in Hoadley. Dad arrived later and took us out to the farm in a wagon. In those days the only road from Hoadley was a trail made by the railway construction crews.

They didn't cut the trees, just bounced around them. The ruts were deep and many times the horses were mired down. It was an interesting experience for us as we'd never been in the bush before. Mama was a city girl (Minneapolis) before coming to the prairie. We didn't enjoy the ride however.

The only accomodation Dad had at the farm was a small tarpaper and birch bark shack, large enough to hold our beds. We cooked outside under a lean-to. Dad left the next day to go meet Lester and we were left alone for a week. There were lots of fish in Town Lake at that time. We ate fish and our other scanty supplies, but finally ran out of anything to eat with our fish.

Two railway camps, construction and tie camps, were located on our place. The crews were working in a cut just back of the site where our house was eventually built. I tried to borrow a horse from them to go for supplies. They wouldn't loan a horse, but brought us a load of groceries so we ate well until Dad and Lester finally arrived.

The railway construction that year was all done by horse power. They lost 45 horses from swamp fever and blood poisoning. We've often thought the large amount of bears around at that time was due to so many dead horses. The next year they brought in draglines, shovels, etc.

There was also an engineers' surveyers camp at Town Lake, many of the young men just out of school and they visited us often. I remember one was an accomplished violinist and another played jazz on the piano.

Dad's farm was SW $\frac{1}{4}$ 5 - 46 - 3 - 5 and Lester's SE $\frac{1}{4}$ 6 - 46 - 3 - 5. These had formerly been homesteaded and abandoned by Mr. Hewlet - killed in the first World War, and Mr. Honeycutt.

Some of our early neighbors (distance didn't matter in those days) were Hans Seline, Rauchert's, Joiners, Sanford Nelson, who had a mill at Norbuck, George Shriggley (his niece took him back to the States after a lengthy illness in an Edmonton Catholic Hospital), Wm. Brown's family, Sid Hanbury and family, Harry Dewar and his parents, Raymon Dewar and his family, Willows and family, Carl Demars, Harry Hamblin, Jesse James, Wm. Steers, The Turnbulls, Lou Hendrigan, B.J. Shamp and family, Orrin Day and family, Alfred Engler, The Gintners, Enoc and Nat Johnson, Stones, Bunkers, John Neilsons, Dewitts, A.J. Platz and family, Olsons, Larsons, Sid Carter. I've probably missed a few. Others who had left before our time, Harry Prince, Fountaine, King. Carroll Brow. had a mill by Twin Lakes and the Vigen's farther east. E.A. Drader had a mill at the foot of the hill north of us. This later was homesteaded by Scotty Williamson. Later neighbors, now gone from the district were, The Johnson Bros., where Soreges live now, Hustads, Thrashers, George and Mackie Russell, McKenzie, Crawford's, Hallgrens, Jack Jones, I believe he's in Winfield now, Happy Anderson, McCaffertys, Lynch, Foresburg.

Many of our neighbors used to come to our house to stay while waiting for the train, in those days before the line was completed. We never knew when the train would come and we often had a house full over night. We could usually hear the train leave Norbuck, so they'd have time to pack up and be ready to flag it down.

We got our mail at Hoadley before there was a Post Office at Winfield, our groceries from John Mann at Hoadley or Mrs. Bunker at Knob Hill. I.O. Gibbons opened the first store at Winfield. He and his family put on dances and entertainment in the early days. We so often enjoyed the little plays etc. Mr. and Mrs. Groulx moved from Hoadley and built a blacksmith shop at Winfield. When work fell off in later years they took in borders.

I don't remember too much about the school, not having children involved until Kenneth started his first teacher was Mr. Vanderberg. Mrs. Anna Taylor taught sometime in the earlier days as I remember the wonderful Christmas concerts her pupils put on. As she is an old timer, she taught earlier out west. The entertainment of the district was picnics (people came far by wagon or horseback to Buck Lake, Pendryl, Knob Hill, Norbuck, Breton etc.), dances, often with entertainment at midnight, also baseball and basketball.

We purchased our first chickens at Hoadley. I brought them home on a pack horse in June 1926. On the way home I was caught in a hail storm which turned into heavy snow. I stopped over at the Johnson mill. There were several eggs in the crate to help pay for my lodging.



Harry & Viola
Francis

Needless to say too many trees were severely damaged. There were many similar incidents in the early days, but I expect they were common to everyone. My brother spent many hours hauling feed for the stock during cold winter days. We were threatened by a forest fire once but were saved when the wind died down. Our water supply at first was hauled from springs. Later we dug a well by hand, after having the water located by Hans Seline and his witching stick.

It started to rain steadily in the fall before our house was built, so everything got water-logged, even our beds as the roof leaked. The men discovered the remains of an old log barn put a roof on it and we moved in. Our beds were placed on loose planks on the rafters which we reached with a ladder. Later when the weather turned cold we moved into the cook tent of the construction camp till Christmas (they had moved out for the winter). When our house had a floor added and other improvements we moved back. Later we added a lumber kitchen and bedroom to the original log house and lived there until we lost the house and almost all of our belongings by fire. We rebuilt, but my two boys as well as Gene and Lester, went away to work and Mann's health failed.

We moved to Red Deer in 1954. Mamma passed away, June 10, 1968 at 83 years of age, Dad passed away June 3, 1970, one month short of 90 years.

by Violet Martin.

Violet Martin remembers the Society School. Mr. Thresher (Sr.) named the school by pulling the name from a hat. David Martin went to this school. Also children from the following families: Ramstead, Hustad, Glanfield, Jones, Welsh, Grover, Crawford, McCafferty, and Russell. Harry Dewar was considered a very good athlete.

Mrs. Shamp put vinegar in jam to make it go farther. She put clover leaves in tobacco to stretch it. She was a good singer.

The Section crew were stationed for several years at Town Lake while the railway was under construction to Winfield. "Russian" Bill Johnson and Enhjoi were foremen here. One October day while accompanying Albin Hustad to his mother's birthday dinner the Enhjoi family overloaded the boat and were dumped into the icy water. Chris attempted to rescue them while a Russian fellow with little knowledge of English went to the Francis family for help. Later help arrived from Winfield. They were all saved and suffered no lasting ill effects.

Jeffersons, west of Winfield had a tall house as they were tall people. Mrs. Bunker later married him.

GILBERT FRASER:

My Trip West in 1925

And how well I remember it. My Dad took up a homestead in 1925 at Pendryl, Alberta. We started our trip from Millet, Alberta where we lived at that time, spent our first night at Lone Ridge, and then on through Falun and Westeros. We stopped at the Norstrom's - it was a stopping place for anyone passing through. Our next stop was at Yeoford where I had my 17th birthday, September 4th. Dad and I had fried eggs, I remember, on a campfire, then we started out again and got as far as Knob Hill when the reach broke on my wagon, we stayed that night at a bachelor's - I just can't remember the name. Next morning, we travelled on and reached our destination which was the old Weaver place. We were to call that home till Dad got a little house built on the homestead 2 miles north of Pendryl store.

Our neighbors at the Weaver place were Mr. and Mrs. Stratton, a little old English couple and how they survived I don't know. They were in their seventies and had a skinny team to fetch groceries and mail from the Pendryl store. Harold Weaver had the Post Office up near Pendryl School when we first went there.



Fraser Family:

Gilbert Fraser Sr., Gilbert Jr., ., I took my Grade 8 there and Mrs. Taylor was my teacher. Mac Fraser, Emma and Mrs. Weaver's left and Gus Bjur took over the Post Office and also Gilbert Fraser. had a store 2 miles west of the school. I went to school with

the Dewar's, Nelson's, Schamp's, Willow's and Adams. Then I quit school and went to work as most of us did at that time. I worked for John Engblom's.

By that time we were living on our homestead. My oldest brother, Boo, worked at the Burrows Mill and Dad also. Gilbert, my second brother, took a homestead at Alder Flats and married Mary Parker. They now live in Rimbey and his son, Glen Fraser, has the farm. His daughter and her husband (Darlene and Harvey Sharp) have our old home place. My youngest brother married Hazel McCaig from Didsbury and lives at Three Hills. Bob married Ines Bjur and lives at Three Hills also.



Mr. Gilbert Fraser - 1926
On the Homestead.

We all worked hard and our entertainment was going to all the dances on horseback or sleigh, playing basketball and hardball with the

Winfield teams. Beatrice Tanner, my girl friend and I just lived to play ball. We all went to church and had a little choir at the Pendryl school; the Long girls and Bjurs. We enjoyed ourselves in our own ways.

Our water we got from wells that were dug by hand and was good pure water. I finally moved to southern Alberta and married Joe Donovan, now deceased, and have seven children, living and I live at Red Deer with my youngest boy, who just finished school and youngest daughter. Oh, my youngest sister married Richard Clemmer and now lives at Alder Flats where they have built a lovely home.

We had no handicap, only hard times.

by Emma Donovan (nee Fraser).

LUDWIG FREBERG



Ludwig Freberg came from Sweden in 1908 and settled in the Yeoford district in 1909.

He was a carpenter and did a lot of building around Yeoford and Wetaskiwin.

He was married in Sweden and had four children, two are deceased and two are still living in Sweden.

LUDWIG FREBERG

HJELMER FREBERG:

Mr. Hjelmner Freberg came from Sweden in 1908 and settled in the Yeoford district in 1909. They built cute little log cabins. He was a carpenter, and would walk the distance to his home from Wetaskiwin. Hjelmner spent much of his time in Calgary.

JOHNNY FREDRICKSON:

Before John Fredrickson came to Winfield to settle, he had spent some time in the surrounding area. In the late 20's he came to Breton from Lacombe by boxcar in search of work.

John filed on a homestead east of Breton and built a shack that cost him \$1.50. This was paid for a window and all the rest was made by hand from logs. At that time he worked around at various lumber camps. After a few years, he left, returning off and on until 1938, when he came to Winfield, again looking for work. He worked for the McDougall sawmill, camp #1, mainly hauling lumber. Wages were 17½¢ an hour for a ten hour day. 12½¢ a day went for compensation and 75¢ a day for board and room. The McDougall operation was the largest in the area with a payroll of about 300 men. There were 200 men in camp #1, 40 on the planer at Winfield and 60 in camp #6.

Carroll's mill was in operation at that time too, and there was a Calgary box factory also.

Johnny branched out with his trucking business to do general hauling also with his three trucks. This was in the late 30's when Winfield was a real boom town, with 5 cafes and 4 rooming houses. On a Saturday night hundreds of loggers would come into town and Winfield was known far and wide as quite a gay town, sometimes called "Little Chicago".

In 1946, John bought out the Joe Walters rooming house which the Hannah's managed until moving to their farm, and Ethel who he later married took over its management. Ethel Henderson is a twin of Mrs. Orten Hannah.

In 1952, he built the big garage for his trucks. John took over the Imperial Oil Garage in 1961 and has since sold his trucks.

The rooming house was torn down in 1959.

The Fredrickson children are Phylis of Drayton Valley; Alvin of Edmonton; Beverly of Vancouver; Betty of Fort McMurray; and Florrie at home.

FRED FREEMAN:

Fred Freeman and his wife, Mary, with their four children came to Canada from North Dakota and homesteaded near Gwynne, Alberta in 1900. There they lived in a log house with a sod roof until a better one could be built. Gradually they acquired several more quarters of land which they farmed and ranched. As the years went by, four more children were added to their family.

The first of the family to move west from the old pioneer home was my husband, Charlie Freeman, our eight year old son, Billy, and myself, in 1929. We bought a quarter section of land along the shore of Battle Lake and began building up a home. A few weeks later, Charlie's brother, Clarence, with his wife, the former Edith Fowler of Wetaskiwin, moved out and they bought land near the outlet of Battle Lake, at a place rather aptly named Sleepy Hallow.

Both Edith and I were teachers and soon found ourselves teaching in one room, rural schools. Edith at South Pigeon Lake and I at the old Cree Valley School.

Charlie became interested in the lumber business and in partnership with Albert Nadeau, operated a saw mill at Battle Lake and in the Blindman Valley for a number of years.

In 1933 Charlie's parents, Fred and Mary Freeman, with two of their grandchildren, Bob and Gwen Hay, moved to Battle Lake. Dad Freeman (Fred) kept things going on the farm in the winter, while Charlie operated the sawmill. Dad Freeman was deeply interested in political science, and between farm chores - did considerable research and writing on a book dealing with the political science of that time. Ill health finally slowed down his writing and he was unable to finish it before his death in 1940.

Grandma Freeman, (Mary), was an experienced practical nurse and was frequently called upon to look after the sick, and deliver babies. She also helped organize the Battle Lake Women's Club, and was it's first president. This club is still going and has always been at the forefront when help was needed in the community. Mrs. Freeman passed away in 1946 at the age of eighty-three.

Those were the depression years. People had very little money, and no public services, such as Welfare, but we managed to pull through, somehow. We had no luxuries, but we had enough good substantial food with vegetables from our large garden, and milk, butter, eggs and meat from our farm animals. Wild game - deer, moose and elk were plentiful, as were partridge (ruffed grouse), prairie chickens (sharp-tailed grouse) and ducks. Jackfish and white fish from Battle and Pigeon Lake added variety to our diet. Berries were found in abundance in those days. Raspberries grew profusely along the long log chutes on Battle Lake. Berry Point, the property now owned by our Lieutenant-Governor, Grant McEwan, supplied many families with winter fruit. Blueberries could be found almost anywhere on the higher ground. Several families of us used to combine a picnic with blueberry picking and came rattling home in a lumber wagon with pails and pails of fruit.

Our homes could hardly be considered comfortable. The Walter Fullerton home was the only one that had a furnace. The rest of us had a heater in the living room and a cook stove in the kitchen. Both of which ate great quantities of wood and produced too little heat to warm the bedrooms. On bitter winter mornings, while the men were out doing the chores, the rest of us grabbed our clothes and dived for the scanty warmth of the heating stove to dress. The wrath of the family fell upon the boys when they forgot their nightly chore of filling the wood box.

Getting ready for our long winter was a busy time for us women. We canned, preserved, dried, pickled and swapped recipes for cakes and cookies that took a little less sugar. We baked our own bread and used the flour sacks for sheets, pillow slips, aprons and little girls dresses.

We did our laundry in the not-so-good old fashioned way, with home made lye soap, a tub, wash board and clothes line. In winter the clothes often froze stiff before we could get them pinned on the line.

In those days the old black-smith shop held a place of honor. Farm tools and machinery were made and repaired there, while many a horse shoe was hammered out on the anvil. Sickles and knives were sharpened on the old hand turned grind-stone.

The educational needs of our community were dealt with at Cree Valley School, which was a typical one room, frame building with a door in the end and three draughty windows on each side. A half partition separated a frigid hall from the school room proper. The hall was equipped with a row of nails for coats. A water pail with a tin dipper stood on a bench. That dipper never failed to infect most of the children when strep throat hit the school. Empty lard pails were used for lunch kits. In winter sandwiches were frozen solid by the time the children got to school, and had to be thawed on a home made grid on the heating stove. The stove was an old oil barrel to which had been added four legs, a door and a stove pipe hole. The chimney was at one end of the room; the stove at the other. The two were connected by innumerable joints of ill fitting pipe, with jets of thick smoke pouring out when the wood was wet and since there was no wood shed, that was most of the time.

School equipment consisted of about ten feet of blackboard, a dictionary, a map of the world, a map of Canada, a dozen or so library books, and a fly-specked print of their Majesties, King George V and his Queen looking very regal. The desks were wide and accommodated two children. Each kept his few books at his own end of the desk, leaving ample space between for sling-shots, jack-knives and other contraband. We all walked to school, plowing through deep snow in winter and slogging through mud and slush in the spring. But it wasn't all hardship. The pupils were willing and cooperative and we made the school cheerful with home made curtains, pictures, pupils drawings and in summer bouquets of beautiful wild flowers. At noon hour we played Run-sheep-run or ball, with a ball made from wound up store string and a stick for a bat. Of course, the high-light of the school year was the Christmas Concert, in which everyone had a part.

The winters were long but the monotony was broken by parties in the homes. We didn't have baby sitters then but took our children with us and put the small ones to sleep in the spare bedrooms.

Each year saw a few more comforts added. Through the Women's Club we obtained a travelling library from the Department of Extension in Edmonton. The Walter Fullerton family and the Will Jones family bought battery powered radios which were just coming into general use. They generously shared the entertainment with their neighbors and many a long evening was shortened by the music of Major Bowes or the humor of Fibber McGee and Molly. The news broadcasts and hockey games kept us in touch with the rest of the world.

Then came the heart breaking year of 1939 and World War II. Our young men and women joined the armed services. Everyone contributed to the war effort with hand knitted socks, sweaters, food parcels, quilts and clothing for bombed areas, Red Cross supplies for hospitals, more food, more lumber, more war bonds, and more heart breaks as messages came telling us of our children who would not be coming back. Our own son, Billy, was among them. His Lancaster bomber was shot down over France. Two of his friends from our neighborhood, Ivan Nilsson and Clarence Nadeau did not return either.

By 1944 saw-timber was becoming so scarce we went out of the lumber business and began farming on a larger scale. We now had a daughter, Jodie Lynne, to whom we gave a musical education. Pianos then began to appear in many homes and education took a turn for the better. In 1946 the old one-room schools were replaced by a centralized school, Lakedell was built on the site of the South Pigeon Lake School. Buses brought the children from the surrounding districts. Lakedell was the first centralized school in north-central Alberta.

Our community at Battle Lake was growing out of it's pioneer days. Electric power and telephone were installed in almost every home.

The discovery of oil in the Pigeon Lake area brought more and better roads. What had been slightly glorified cow trails became gravelled or paved highways, for transporting heavy derricks, pipes and other oil machinery over frozen muskegs and through dense bush land. Many local men, including my husband, joined the ranks in the exciting search for oil, the black gold a mile below the yellow gold of the grain fields.

During these years I had been teaching school at Cree Valley, Peaceful Valley and at Lakedell, but after forty years of service, finally decided to retire.

In 1970 we celebrated our Golden Wedding Anniversary and shortly afterwards moved to Sicamous, B. C. where our daughter, Jodie Lynn, and three grandchildren live.

We still have our home place in Alberta and when summer comes, old ties pull us back to our old home at Battle Lake, where we spend a few weeks.

by Bernadine Freeman.

ROBERT FROME:

Robert Frome was born at Sorsala, Sweden on May 17, 1892. He came to Canada in 1911.

Miss Hedvig Johanson was born at Malmo, Sweden on January 25, 1895, and came to Canada in 1916.

They were married on December 1, 1919 in Edmonton.

Robert first farmed in Saskatchewan with an oxen team. After they were married they were at Glen Park on C. P. R. land.

In 1928 they moved to "Melanders" SE 22 - 46 - 1 - 5 at Westeros. Here he worked in sawmills and farmed some. They got their first car that year and also lost their home, by fire. They stayed at Carl Norstoms while neighbors helped them build another house. Their four children walked to South Pigeon Lake school. They moved to SW 32 in 1932 and here logging was the main living. As logging came to an end, their farming started with horses. They bought their first tractor in 1940. The five children walked 3½ miles to Cree Valley School.

Gunhild, born in 1920 married George Teichman they have 5 children and 1 grandson, and live at Plasturgh, N. Y.

Axel, born in 1922 married Jessie Borolgal and farm at Grande Prairie and have two children.

Henry, born in 1925 married Mary Kaposta, have 1 boy and farm at Wetaskiwin.

Myrtle, born in 1935 and married Rodney Doupe, they have four girls and also farm at Wetaskiwin.

Margaret, born in 1932, married Dan Holmes, they have four children and they farm at Battle Lake. They also had the Yeoford Store and Post Office from 1963 to 1967.

Mr. Frome was a keen hunter and in winter had a trapline toward the Yeoford area. He also loved to fish and for his own enjoyment as well as commercial.

He passed away after they moved to Wetaskiwin.

NORMAN FUDGE:

Norman arrived from Ontario the summer of 1929. He spent the summer and fall in the Wetaskiwin district where he was employed in harvesting. After harvest he continued on by Model T to the Modeste Balley, Breton district. He took up homesteading on the SE¼ 19 - 47 - 3 - 5. He spent the winter working in the Wetaskiwin area. The following late summer he returned to the homestead. His mail came to Yeoford. In the fall he built his first homestead cabin which is still standing, this is shown in the photo on the following page. The cabin with the ladder on the roof is his first cabin. This cabin was built of logs standing on end and then plastered with clay and straw. It was a good structure as it is still in pretty good condition today. A cabin such as this with a good old wood stove and a pile of wood in the corner looked real welcome to a traveller in those days. The roads weren't much then and the travel was mostly by team and wagon in summer and sleigh in winter. A stranger welcomed the sight of a cabin and the dweller welcomed the passer by. The traveller brought news and stories of experiences and the homesteader told his. The acquaintance of each other was enjoyed and the horses were rested and fed. The homesteader was always willing to share a hot cup of tea or

coffee and what ever else he would have. There was always plenty of wood for the stove even if it meant cutting it with a buck saw by the light of a coal-oil lantern after a man had worked all day with axe and saw clearing some bush to grow some hay. Or doing whatever means of work there was to make a living.

As soon as he could, Norman built the barn you can see in the picture and he always had some hay in the loft. The hay was cut with a scythe in the draws and small fields and put up with a pitchfork. The road weary traveller would be sure of a warm welcome, a place for his team and a share of whatever else Norman had.



Farm Buildings of - Norman
Fudge.

Some of his early neighbors were the Bob Hill family, Ed Elliot, the Goodhand family, Jack Carmichael, Dave and Charlie Ringberg and family, the Victor Hansen family, the John Wheale Sr. family, Tom Swamby, the Dan McLeod family, the John Berro family, the G. G. Impey family, Mr. & Mrs. Harry Asher, the Carl Rosted family and the Ben Flesher family.

The first cabin Norman had was his home until 1946 when he bought the white dwelling in the front of the picture, moved it on to his quarter and moved into it. Now he has electricity, the water piped in

and its heated with oil. He still has his wood stove but he also has an electric one to use when he wants to. Norman spent a good many winters working the lumber camps. Norman sold the quarter to Reg Carson but still lives there.

BURGESS FULLERTON:

The Cree Valley School, two and one half miles north of Battle Lake, was the furthest west school in the early days, west of Wetaskiwin. All four of us kids in the Fullerton family, Phyllis, Jean, Burgess and Doreen took most of our schooling to grade 10 in this school, as well as all the children from four to five miles around. Some of the early teachers, Miss Goodham, Miss Abercrombie, Florence Stevens, Berna Freeman, Vera Larsen and many others. I recall in the 1920's, teachers of the Cree Valley School received a salary of \$800.00 per year and received board and room for \$20.00 or \$25.00 per month. I remember during the first World War, a teacher was hired for \$600.00 per year and received free board and room, one month at a time in each home, each month of the year. At the old school, the day started early. Most children had to walk from 1 to 3½ miles one way to school. We had 3½ miles to go. We left home in the winter time before daylight and returned home after dark. Each took their turn at going early to build a fire in the old barrel heater in the centre of the old school room. Many days in winter we sat huddled around the old red hot stove with our coats on all day trying to keep warm while we did our best to study. There were ink spots on the fourteen foot ceiling from setting frozen ink bottles on the stove to thaw out and neglecting to remove the cork. As the ink started to thaw out, the pressure inside would build up and the cork would finally "blow" taking ink with it. In this school all grades were taught from one to ten, and even at times grade eleven, by one teacher. We had to learn to work by ourselves and only ask for help from the teacher if we really needed it because all classes, for all grades, were held in one room by one teacher and there were very few who failed, because of this handicap. We carried water from home to drink, carried our lunch, etc. When I became old enough to drive a team, I rigged up a sleigh and called it the Cree Valley Flyer. About twenty-eight of the thirty-five to forty pupils of the school came from along our route to school and everyone piled on.

My sister, Phyllis, graduated as a Registered Nurse. Jean became a School Teacher and taught, after graduation, at Knob Hill and Wenham Valley schools at different times. My youngest sister, Doreen also graduated as a Registered Nurse.

By the early 1930's mill operations were getting established in the Winfield, Hoadley and Breton areas and a railroad was run west of Leduc through Breton, Hoadley, Winfield and south-east through Rimbey, Bentley and into Lacombe to service the lumbering industry primarily, but contributed greatly to the settling of that portion of the west country. Because roads were many times impassable, the rails were used for emergency travel. Accidents frequently occurred in the logging operations and sawmills and many times an ordinary man powered hand

car was used to take injured and sick to Leduc or Lacombe for treatment. The train that serviced this area had no particular schedule, but usually came through three to five times a week depending on the work load, the stops for coffee or to pick berries, or hunt game depending on the whims of the engineer and crew.

The urge for competition and for something to do in off time, the sports minded men at the camps and surrounding communities organized a Hockey Bush League. The Anthony Ross Mills at Norbuck got a good team together. Also Frasers at Breton, two teams from the Winfield area, a team from Knob Hill, Wenham Valley and also Battle Lake. The team I played with was called the Battle Lake Beavers. This was the winter sport. Hockey equipment in those days was a pair of skates and a stick, each buying their own and the team that could afford to equip their goaly with a wide stick and a pair of goaly pads was well equipped. The player that had a pair of small shin pads and regular socks and pants was thought of as a professional player. Obviously many players often limped home after, but the games were always played with great enthusiasm and a will to win, with great support from the crowds that gathered.

House parties (dances), basket socials, were the thing to go to. Every family in the district, especially during the long winters, took their turn at staging one with open invitations to the rest of the community. Music was usually supplied by local fiddlers and my mother often played the piano when there was one available along with other instruments, guitars, banjo, etc. George Kimmey was nearly always on hand to call square dances, and to keep the dances on the move throughout the evening. With all due respect to George, who was our good neighbor for many years, to relate an almost unbelievable fact, I used to wonder at his ability to call square dance after square dance without the slightest hesitation or flaw, when talking to him at any other time he found it difficult to speak due to a serious stutter (impediment) in his speech.

We, as kids, had to look for entertainment without cost in most cases. Halloween was a fun time but we had to travel some distance between places. Wilber Kimmey and I used to saddle up our horses and ride from farm to farm for tricks, no treats. We did things we probably shouldn't have, but we were no different than generations before and after. We accomplished, with considerable effort, such things as, tying our lariats from one saddle horn to the other and rolling over the out houses, pulling wagons and machinery into awkward places, harnessing up milk cows in the barn in teams, tipping piles of lumber, etc. Ball games, tournaments, picnics, sports days were the summer sport and entertainment throughout the area.

Our family attended church regularly on Sunday morning at the Battle Lake Church mostly. My Grandfather, Preacher Nelson, was usually our minister. He never ever took a nickle for his service. Money from the collection plate was used to buy Bibles and printed material to spread the Gospel etc. Sometimes we visited other churches, Westeros and Brightview, I bumped into Alice Klapstien as I hurried around the corner of the church and she was coming just as fast the other way. Neither one of us said anything but both kept looking back as we proceeded on our way. This was the lasting impression that resulted in our wedding in 1939.

Very briefly our movements since we were married started at Lone Ridge for two years farming, then to Wetaskiwin where I worked as a mechanic for Nick Oswald, the International Dealer for two years. The Second World War was in it's third year when I applied to enlist in the Air Force and was not called so sent to work as an equipment operator for Mannix Const. who were on essential war work, building a Calgary Power Dam at Kannaskas Lakes south of Banff, and from there to Dog Creek in the interior of B. C. near Williams Lake, where they were contracted by the American Government to build a large emergency air field on top of Dog Creek Mountain to sustain their air traffic north to Alaska, a very important link in their defence program, very important to Canada too! Alice, Carroll and Dale went there with me and we lived in a small house trailer about a mile from the airport construction area, high above the mighty Fraser River. About two years later, we moved our little family, Dale and Carroll, back to Battle Lake, purchasing the old home place at the end of the Lake. It was difficult to make a living there so we purchased the Yeoford Store from Rudy Forestburg. Building up a good trucking, store, feed and gas business, it became interesting to Colin Gillies and we sold the business to him and purchased Grampa Nelsons homestead after he passed away, at Westeros near Lakedell School. We purchased a crawler tractor and industrial equipment and I spent the following few years building roads in the west country and clearing land in the area, while Alice worked hard to make a home for our young family and started them off to school at Lakedell. Bev was born while here.

My mother and Dad were living in Edmonton and encouraged us to sell out and move to Edmonton. Land values in the City were going up fast. We purchased the property of the South Side Planer Mills in South Edmonton on 104th Street. We operated this plant while waiting for values to increase. Oil Exploration presented a challenge so we sold the property and equipment

and purchased two new Seismograph Drilling Rigs and allied equipment. We did oil exploration work in Saskatchewan, and many areas in Alberta. The booming oil business and production drilling opportunities presented itself and we sold the exploration business and I went to Dallas, Texas for two months to design and have built a special production drilling rig for shallow oil and gas production work to depths of up to 3,500 feet. We brought it home to Edmonton by the trucks we purchased in Texas and immediately went to work in the Medicine Hat area. Our first contract was for Deeprock Oil Corp. of Tulsa, Oklahoma, six gas exploration wild cat wells out of which five were successful producers, still producing. From there we drilled wells at Redwater, Wainwright, Bonnyville and the rig gained the reputation of being the fastest drilling rig in it's field. We purchased a second rig for drilling to depths of up to 7,000 feet and drilled production wells in Leduc and Edmonton district and drilled the closest producing well to Edmonton, just east of the city limits at that time, now it is in the city limits. Things were real good and we thought we were never going to have to want for anything when the oil business slumped badly and we, along with many others, lost everything and there was nothing we could do about it. We had very little left to start over so we moved back to Wetaskiwin and I went to work for Stan Reynolds as his equipment manager. During the following seven years with Stan, a lot of hard work and good pay, we built a new life and gathered some property with savings as we went along. After Stan sold out his business, we developed our farm a mile north of Wetaskiwin, built a new home for our family of four children now. Beverly and Dixie had come along. Carol married Constable Bob Currie of the R. C. M. P.

We purchased a stock farm five miles west of Winfield where Dale and Bev managed the one hundred and fifty head of range cows and farming operation for three years. In 1966 Dale got married. Later that year we sold out at Winfield and also at Wetaskiwin. Alice and I, Bev and Dixie moved to Newmarket, Ontario as I had been hired by Cee-Der-Log Buildings of Calgary to go to Ontario and establish their Eastern Canadian Sales Organization for them - planned this would take three years. We completed our assignment and moved back to Calgary in the fall of 1968. Spending the winter in Calgary, the opportunity presented itself to purchase the International Harvester Dealership Machinery and Truck outlet in Olds. Dale and Bev joined forces with me in this venture and here we are in our third year of operation. Dixie and Bev were both married in 1969.

We enjoyed our life of moving about and have had many interesting experiences that are worth a lot to us.

by Burgess Fullerton.

WALTER B. FULLERTON:

Possibly the greatest contribution to the development of the country west of Wetaskiwin and to the strength of the economy of that area and financial support of the early settlers of that era, was the establishment of one of the largest lumber companies in West Central Alberta in 1909 by the name of Fullerton Fawcett Lumber Company Ltd., an Alberta Corporation owned by Walter B. Fullerton and Blis Fawcett both of Nova Scotia but managed by Walter Fullerton who moved west in 1909 and, spurred on by the desire to develop the extremely high quality and abundant supply of timber in the Battle Lake area and west, proceeded to embark on a huge undertaking.

After acquiring timber leases on large tracts of prime timber lands surrounding Battle Lake in quantities estimated to produce several million board feet of lumber per year to the construction industry, commercial and agriculture, throughout Central Alberta over the following 50 years, Walter Fullerton proceeded to establish the first large sawmill and logging operation west of Wetaskiwin at the East end of the lake, closest point to market for the finished lumber and yet still on the natural



Lumber piled at Fullerton Fawcett Lumber Mill at Battle Lake.

waterway over 7 miles long through the timber land to be logged, forming a natural means to transport the logs to the mill, actually making it feasible to move logs such a distance as 7 to 10 miles in those days.

It was like a dream starting to come true for Walter, having undoubted faith in the future of Alberta and the development of the resources so rich in the west. Although the demand for finished lumber was at the time not very strong, the future possibilities seemed very good to him. Even though finished lumber would only bring \$13.00 to \$15.00 per thousand board feet delivered to Wetaskiwin, after a 37 mile haul over extremely poor roads by teams and wagons, he was not discouraged. So the project proceeded.

Many problems were overcome and many times it seemed the project would be doomed to failure, but Walter's determination to finish the job seemed to overcome them. To move the heavy Saw Mill equipment and supplies to the site at Battle Lake over country that had few roads, that at the best would be called pack trails now days, and especially the country west of Falun where there was only packhorse trails winding around hills and muskegs and through tall timber. Even though the trail was cleared wider by axe and saw, there was no way of moving dirt to fill in the holes and move stumps etc. A large steam boiler to develop steam power for the sawmill, had to be moved to the Mill Site at Battle Lake. No transporting equipment capable of carrying the weight of the Boiler was in existence off the railroad tracks. If there had been, there wouldn't have been any source of power to move it, or roads to carry it. It was decided the only way to get the boiler there was to roll it all the way, 37 miles. To accomplish this the heavy Boiler 24 feet long, 10 feet in diameter had heavy planks strapped around it like a jacket, a shaft was run end to end through the centre of it to form an axis from which to pull. A hitch was rigged up and eight horses harnessed to the job. One late frosty fall day in 1910 they rolled the boiler down main street in Wetaskiwin past the Driard Hotel and headed west with the cheers and best wishes of the total population of the town. To them this represented the beginning of industrial development of the west, and the strengthening of the economy of central Alberta. During the many years to follow it was to mean a great deal to the livelihood of the majority of the population in and west of Wetaskiwin.

About 8 weeks later, with the efforts of many men, horses, and the use of large quantities of logs to corduroy the soft muskeg areas that don't normally freeze up in winter, the boiler was landed on the site in good condition. Many sleigh loads of machinery and provisions were moved before spring breakup to be able to proceed with construction the following summer.

About 100 homesteaders and laborers were hired for construction of the mill, and to man the logging camps. A store was built at the mill site, barns for the horses cost \$500.00 to \$600.00 and more, while wages for the average man was \$1.00 per day and free board and room with no overtime pay, and a days work was about 10 hours and a work week was 6 days and some times 7 days, and dry, dressed lumber delivered 37 miles brought about \$15.00 per thousand board feet. By comparison today this same lumber would retail in the yard for upwards of - \$135.00 per thousand B. F.

It seemed that, for the following many years every man for miles around would sooner or later make a living working for Fullerton Fawcett Lumber Company, and that they would obtain their supplies of all kinds from the Company Store. The Mill Store became known as the Battle Lake Store and Post Office, and the only means of shipping and transportation between the west and Wetaskiwin was the regular trips made by the hardy teamsters, beautiful, well matched, well fed four horse teams that pulled the loads of lumber, about 1500 board feet to a load, 37 miles over hazardous roads in all kinds of weather making a round trip regularly every 3 days and each return trip loaded with supplies for the many people and their families that worked for the Company and tools and equipment to keep the operation moving.

Logging operations were in full swing along the south west side of the Lake and were cut by 2 man cross cut saws, (power saws had not yet been invented), and skidded by teams and single skid horse to the top of the hill over looking the 7 mile long Lake. To those who have not seen a log shoot, a rollway was built on the gentle upper slope of the hill. Down the slope away, where the logs would gain fair rolling speed, a very large post would be planted to catch one end of the log and stop it. The momentum would swing the log and it would continue it's slide endways steeper and faster down a trough, built from logs, guided by high sides. Near the bottom of the hill a jump was built, similar to a ski run and jump, over which the log shot at high speed into the air and landed in the lake and floated to the surface. To confine the logs in the water a Log Boom was built with long logs, with large holes drilled in each end and joined together end to end by what was known as a boom chain especially designed for this purpose. Rugged men, expert at walking and riding on floating logs would herd them out of the boom into a trough by a long cable and power-steam winch into the mill to be sawed into lumber.

The Eastman family was one of the many who spent much of their life time at Battle

Lake as employees of the Company. Mr. Eastman Senior moved out west to Battle Lake after the Mill was in operation and they moved all of their worldly possessions in an ox cart, powered by an Ox and a Bull, driven as a team. For many years after that he hired out to the company, skidding logs with his Bull and his Ox. Two of his sons grew up, worked in the camp and both died violent deaths while fishing and hunting along the Lake. Five members of the Eastman family are buried on a high spot, over looking the Lake on the property now known as Wilbur Kimmy's farm. This was the land homesteaded by Eastmans in the early days.



Skid Road

Located on the south side of Battle Lake used in Early Operations these still show on south hillside of Battle Lake.



Wyman Fullerton

The log boom being towed into the Mill at the east end of Battle Lake.

Many people homesteaded land throughout the area for miles around, being able to earn a living by working for the Sawmill Company. Years later some abandoned them but some did manage to carry on farming eventually, and in many cases their families carried on to this day.

By the early 20's, Walter Fullerton had brought the Company to a very large volume of finished lumber and had established good markets throughout Central Alberta, east to the border, north to Edmonton, south to Red Deer and had a large retail lumber yard, with large stocks of material including hardware in Wetaskiwin. Many of the buildings and homes throughout the country are still standing, that were built with the lumber produced at his mill and sold through his yard at Wetaskiwin.

Then it happened, three years after the first World War ended, the terrible fire broke out, in the Mill. The complete mill was lost and most of the gigantic piles of lumber. The cause of the fire is still a mystery, but the German night watchman left during the fire, and was never heard of since. It was always felt that it was a case of sabotage. No insurance, made it impossible to finance a rebuilding of the Mill and the Company was never able to recover. This resulted in real hardship for many who depended on this industry for a living, many left the country, some were able to make a living on the farm and stayed. The Lumber yard in Wetaskiwin had to close down due to not being able to replenish their stock. The closing of the mill and logging operations meant no further income from that source for over 150 families.

Walter's feelings for all those who worked for him, to be sure they had all they needed to eat and wear, resulted in many thousands of dollars left unpaid at the store and were never collected. When it became apparent that finances would not be available to rebuild, he settled down to the very difficult task of making the best of what was left and supporting his family to the best of his ability, on the farm at Battle Lake near the Mill Site, showing the same determination he had had in the past. He was elected first Reeve of the West Local Improvement District and served that position for several years, and was very active in public affairs in the District.

A few years after the Mill operation had started, Walter married Esther Nelson, the daughter of Rev. James Nelson who contributed greatly to the early history of the west. He moved his family from Minnesota to Pleasant Prairie, a district about 6 miles west of Wetaskiwin shortly after the turn of the century. Having a pioneering spirit, soon moved to a homestead just 1 mile west of the now Lakedell School site on the highway west of the Westrose Store. He built a home there for his family from native logs. His lifetime was to be spent here and the next 35 years would see only about 40 acres of heavy timber cleared and huge stumps grubbed out by hand and the land broke with a team of horses. Growing enough wheat to make flour for bread, which he ground with a horse power mill. A Horse Power meaning the power was developed by a horse walking around and around in circles pulling on the end of a long pole which in turn, through a series of speed gears, drove the grinder. Many people brought wheat to be

ground. Any time taken off from the uphill job of clearing and raising food for the family was spent spreading the Gospel throughout the west country. Everyone had great respect for him, known as Preacher Nelson to those he helped and made contact with. Each Sunday, regardless of weather conditions, he would load his portable organ in the back of his democrat and drive his team, sometimes, for several hours, to hold a service in a school, a home or any place he could arrange a meeting, most of the time very well attended by people of the district for miles around.

While the Mill was still in operation Walter Fullerton also felt the need to do his part. He offered all of the lumber and material and land to build a Church at Battle Lake for the community. With this offer, the people of the community turned out to help and the Battle Lake Church was built. It still stands as a tribute and still serves the community at the same site just north from the east end of Battle Lake, about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles, on what used to be the main road west to Yeoford Store and points west.

This road west has many stories to tell. The early days saw many people trekking west looking for land to homestead, those men looking for work, some making their way, in the early 20's, to the logging camp that had started on the Saskatchewan River, west of what is now Alder Flats, known as Rickers camp. Ricker had a dream that timber could be cut and the logs then decked on the River ice, and it was thought that when the ice went out in the spring and the water was high, the logs would float down the river to Edmonton. There they would pull them out on shore and Mill them into lumber. Two winters were spent setting up camp and logging, thousands of logs onto the River ice. The logs went with the ice as planned in the spring but they got hung up all along the shores of the river and all efforts failed to stop the rest at Edmonton, they sailed on by and were lost which put an end to a courageous mans dream. Logs could be seen for many years stranded along the banks of the Saskatchewan River from the camp several hundred miles down river.

For the people that did make the trip back and forth from east to west, there was always food and lodging at Preacher Nelson's home and Walter Fullerton's home. Most of the travel was on foot or saddle and packhorse out that far west in those days.

When the lumber haul and freight teams didn't travel to Wetaskiwin, after the fire closed the Mill down, there was need for mail service by other means. A hardy chap by the name of Joe Cowan was given the contract by the postal service to deliver mail to the west with deliveries to Brightview, Falun, Westerose, Battle Lake and Yeoford Stores at which points Post Offices had been established. It is interesting to consider the problems of road and weather conditions to make two round trips a week on this 50 mile run. The summer trips were conquered with one horse on a buggy in fair weather, and by horse and pack horse in wet weather. The winter was tougher, one horse hitched to a large tobogan was the only sure way of beating the deep snow conditions. It seldom occurred that the mail did not get through on the day intended.

When land was cleared and soil turned over on the flats near the old Mill site at the east end of Battle Lake, many Indian artifacts were uncovered. A large collection was gathered by Ken Hunter, an old timer of the area and Battle Lake Postmaster for many years. It was established that this was the Battle grounds during the 1800's between the Cree and the Blackfoot Indian Tribes who apparently were often at war with each other. Thus the names Battle Lake, Battle River, Cree Valley School District and other Indian names. The perimeter of a stone wall fortress was evident on the flat near the end of the Lake. Hudson Bay revolvers, tomahawks, grinding stones, hatchets, arrow and spear heads by the hundreds were recovered. Many probably are still buried there. No Indians will ever fish on Battle Lake even yet, nor are they ever found on the lake even in winter to the writers knowledge, because, as explained by an old Indian Chief of the Cree tribe, they feel that the Lake is deep and full of evil spirits. Many Indians are buried in a burial ground high on a hill at the east end, overlooking the Lake. The greater part of this area mentioned is on the land known to old timers as Fullerton's farm, where the Saw Mill used to be.

Mrs. Walter (Esther) Fullerton passed away in Calgary, Feb. 17, 1972 at the age of 79.

I.O. GIBBONS

Notes on the first stores, started at Buck Lake
and Winfield - year about - 1919.

Mr. I.O. Gibbons, owned a store at Falun, Alberta and one day a man who came from Buck Lake, and said his name was Mr. W. Wilson was telling Mr. Gibbons, what a good -

opportunity there was for a store at Buck Lake, he explained the homesteaders and settlers were moving in fast, Mr. Gibbons said he would be interested in putting a stock of groceries in if Mr. Wilson would get in touch with the settlers, and ask them if they would build a log store. Mr. Gibbons would pay for the doors, windows, flooring and roofing. Mr. Wilson said he would do this, and that he would donate the land.

The settlers agreed to this, and most of them worked very hard, in due course the building was finished, and a big dance was held. It was very surprising how many people, old and young, came from out of the bush to attend the dance. Then the store was stocked with the groceries, Mrs. Stella Sabin, Mr. Gibbon's daughter, and her small son Clayton came out to work in the store. The roads were bad, travelling very slow, Mrs. Sabin thinking it must be the end of the world, and that if her little boy would get sick, and no Doctor within miles and miles, the first night they stopped at Mrs. Bunkers, who kept boarders and roomers then the next day, they got to the John Adams farm for lunch. Mrs. Adams explained that they didn't have much to eat but they were welcome and she had boiled potatoes, boiled turnips and boiled carrots. When Mr. Gibbons left he donated to Mrs. Adams a 100 pound sack of flour, Mrs. Adams thanked him with tears in her eyes.

During the winter Mr. Gibbons sold his store at Falun, and with his wife and daughter Lena, moved out to the Buck Lake store. As there wasn't much room for living quarters he rented what was known as the Tom Clary place moving his stock of groceries there also. Soon after his son Roy, homesteaded the land across from the Herman Siegel farm and in 1921 Mr. Gibbons built another log store there.



Jack Gibbons and David Willows, after Grace Donald's wedding to Don Nelson, May 5, 1952. He was minister at the Anglican Church in Winfield. The town of Gibbons Alta. was named after his father Robin Gibbons.

Ladies Community Club - Winfield - 1944 -



Social life in Winfield Bridge Club - 1939 -



L. to R.: Mrs. I.O. Gibbons, Bill Tait, Mrs. Roy Gibbons, Mr. Roy Gibbons, children Norma and Glen and Mr. I.O. Gibbons.

In August, 1921, Mr. Gibbons traded the store to Elmer and Mrs. Sabin, for their farm at Falun, Mr. Sabin hauling the groceries in a wagon, the roads were terrible. It rained all summer, sometimes the load of groceries had to be half unloaded, then the four horses would pull that through the creek, or muskeg, then that half would be unloaded and the wagon would go back for the other half load, they would then load up and go until another mud hole would be reached. There was so little cash for the settlers to buy with, it was hard for the storekeeper to buy any large quantities of groceries when the road was frozen.

About 1925 the first log school was built, with Miss Fairy Willows as teacher. That was Clayton Sabins first school. It was too far for him to walk so he rode a pony that didn't want to go to school. And the rider didn't want to go either, so Mrs. Sabin had to chase the pony about

one-quarter mile up the road to get it started. One day the teacher had said to her class, that it was not good for people to sleep in their under-wear. The girls should have night dresses and the boys night shirts. Clayton told his mother he had to have a night shirt, so Mrs. Sabin



L. to R.: The Sabins.
Helen Sabin, Mrs. Stella
Sabin-lifeline of most
home-steaders, her chil-
dren Nonie and Clayton
Sabin.

not being much of a seamstress and not having any material to make one, took a 100 pound flour sack, cut the corners of the top made a hole for him to stick his head through and he now had a night shirt. I am sure many more mothers did the same, as the flour sacks were a blessing in those days.

About 1925 it was rumored that a railroad was to be built from Lacombe via Bentley and Rimbey to Leduc. Mr. Gibbons decided to build another store and as the town site for Winfield had been surveyed, he built there. He built a store, a dance hall and a feed store. He also built a small lean-to on the back of his store to live in. This was south of the present Winfield near the tressel. When the town-site was decided on, he built a large store using half for a store and the other half for a boarding and rooming house. This was in 1926.

At this time there were two sawmills operating. Carroll Bros., near Twin Lakes and the Drader sawmill near by. Soon the Knob Hill sawmill came, which was owned by Mr. Anderson and Mr. Eliason. The next business to come in was Mr. Albert Groulx, a Black-smith, then the Charlie Stady family. Mr. Stady worked at the Carroll Bros. mill and Mrs. Stady had a restaurant. About this time Delmer Wing built a pool hall, the same

building bought by Alfred Engler and was the Hardware store. It is the only one of the first buildings still standing. About 1927, Mr. Forshner built the first garage. About this time Roy Gibbons had a livery barn. During this period all the lumber was hauled out to Hoadley by horses.

In 1929 Mr. Woodbridge bought the Froshner garage, and in 1930 the Gibbons store was burned down.

In 1928 Lena Gibbons was married to Wm. Tait, and Mrs. Sabin bought an interest in the Gibbons store which he built up after the fire.

Mr. Gibbons died in 1934, then Mrs. Sabin was the sole owner. Times were very hard during this time. The settlers had no money, there was no work, only the small Relief Orders which were issued to those who were almost starving. Many times the amount of the Relief Order was only \$8.00 for a family of 6 or 8 persons. They could only buy, a 100 pound sack of flour, 20 pounds of rolled oats, 10 pounds of sugar, a little tea, soap and yeast cakes. This had to last a month, then the storekeeper had a difficult time to get payment for these orders, as the Secretary of the Municipality didn't have any money as he was unable to collect taxes due to the shortage of money.

However, more sawmills came in and Winfield became a Booming lumber town. Almost every man had a truck and was hauling lumber.

Mrs. Sabin and her son Clayton had their store until 1952 when they sold to Mr. E. G. Hunter.

by Mrs. Stella Sabin.

ARCHIE GILLIES

In the year 1911 the Archie Gillies family came from Detroit to what was then the Wenham Valley district. Mrs. Gillies brother and family from Michigan had come to the west some time before, settling in the Camrose district, which was one of the reasons for them making the move. The family at that time consisted of Archie and Bessie Gillies and three children, Margaret, Leona and Dugald, who was a small baby at the time. Later three other children were born, Robert, who died in 1926 at the age of eleven, Donald and Colin.

They settled on the SW 1/4 14 - 47 - 3 - 5. Later Dugald acquired the adjoining quarter section. The land still belongs to the family although no one has lived there for some time.

Life was very hard in the early days and it was a difficult task providing for a family of six. Mr. Gillies worked in the logging camps in the winters until he had cleared enough land by hand to do some farming. Mrs. Gillies spent many lonely hours, sometimes not seeing another woman for three months.

The first school was built in 1914, Modeste Valley School District #2956.



1 Mr. & Mrs. Archie Gillies

Mr. Gillies cut a winding trail through the bush, a mile and a half to the school so the children could get there. The first teacher was a Miss Fraser, a Scottish lady from the old country. It must have been a very different form of life to which she was accustomed. She boarded with the Goodhand family.

At first the nearest store was at Westeros. This was owned by Jack McRae who was an old friend of the Gillies, from Ontario. Mr. Gillies used to walk the twenty miles there and carry groceries home on his back. Then there was a store at Yeoford started by a Mr. Tetroe who was soon succeeded by Mr. J.P. Nowell, who was there for many years.

In 1946 Colin Gillies bought the store from Burgess Fullerton who was then the owner, and ran it until he and his family left the district in 1962.

In the early days Mr. Gillies was for some years a sub-land agent for the Alberta Government. People came to his home to file and prove up on homesteads, thus saving the long journey to Edmonton, which was quite an undertaking in those days, the roads and the transportation not being what they are today.

He also spent sometime as road foreman and worked hard to get roads built in this district.

Mr. Gillies passed away in 1951 and Mrs. Gillies in 1956. The rest of the family still reside in Alberta excepting Leona, Mrs. William MacAllister, who went back east as a young girl and has lived in Detroit for many years.

PHILIP GINTHER

They came because of adventurous spirit-a challenge and most important- the thought of a quarter section of land for only \$10.00. Families flocked in. Some gave up in a year or two, after finding the land they had filed on blindly was only swamp and brush. Mr. Ellingson got a good quarter, lots of tamarac and good soil. At this time, Indian trails wound through willow, alder, pine and spruce trees, skirting around very swampy land or steep hills and gullies. Lumber wagons made very deep ruts when loaded. Often bogged down in the swamp and at times people waded in and removed the wheels one at a time, then pulled the wagon over as it would not break through the top crust. Everyone took these things in their stride - happy, friendly - a friend in need was a friend in deed.



The above picture was taken in 1917. Left to right are Mr. and Mrs. Phillip Ginther, who settled near Winfield in 1910, and their daughter Laura (now Mrs. Arthur Ellingson), and in front is another daughter, Minnie (Mrs. A. C. Engler). MR'S FRED

They came by stage from Wetaskiwin under these conditions. Mr. and Mrs. Ginther (mother and dad), the two girls, Minnie and Laura sitting high up on the stage. How exciting it was riding into the unknown - 4 horses - wagon; loaded with everything, grain, pigs, chickens, barbed wire, trunks and people. The first 11 miles were fine - a few homesteaders along the way - roads improved some. 7 a.m. to 12 noon. The first stopping place was Brightview, at a farm at the north end of Bear Lake. A pretty spot owned by Mr. Goodhands, as the name suggests - the passengers were well cared for.

Here we left some stock - roads became worse - fewer settlers. It was late and dark when we reached Westeros (20 miles). The children slept even over the bumps. Often we got hung up on stumps.

This place owned by Alex Norstrum and wife - kind and helpful people. For many years, very few were able to pay but none were turned away. Stayed overnight, unloaded some more articles. Next stop at settler's cabin at dinner time, arriving at Yeoford in the night. Operated by Mr. Tetroe. It had taken 2 days to travel the 50 miles. Today an hour is ample to go this distance.

Soon, they moved to their tar paper shack, 12 x 14 feet, which was five miles south from Yeoford. Put up with leaking roof for 5 years. Mrs. Ginther was a city girl and was terrified of bears. Mosquitos were very bad. By winter,

everyone was brown from the smoke pots used to keep mosquitos away. Land was cleared by hand. In early fall, Mr. Ginther walked to Wetaskiwin to look for work as rabbits had eaten the first crop of grain. Cattle often became mired in sloughs and died if they weren't found within a short time. Indians came by - which frightened the children. Some salesmen came selling calico. Often had runaways with horses getting frightened. Seattle School was organized and built in 1914. At first the terms were of only 6 months. The children often wrapped their feet in gunnysacks, crossing the sloughs they had to walk on logs.

1911 - Mr. Bunney settled east of Yeoford and was interested in pioneering.

- Sadie's father (Mr. Anderson) and Henry Miller shared a boxcar from Seattle to Wetaskiwin.

- Roy Neal rode a freight car with horses and chickens.

- Slim Anderson and family moved $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles east of the present store. (Yeoford).

Daughters were Sadie and Irma. They set up a large tent while they were building their log house. It was hard work for city folks. Two big snow storms in May. Moved horses into tent as they were not used to the cold. Mrs. Anderson cooked while the horses and chickens looked on.

1912 - They built a log barn. While notching logs the double bited axe glanced up to cut a gash from the left eye brow across the nose. Only Doctor was in Wetaskiwin, 50 miles away. There were no roads and the creeks were swollen by rain. Mr. Bunney came by for the school meeting (both on school board). Took Mr. Anderson to the doctor, - $\frac{1}{2}$ mile from home (only road) bridge was floating. Wagon got caught, jammed the wheels. Mr. Anderson lay in hay with an umbrella. Creek water seeped into the wagon box, - waded into water to unjam logs, made it to Arthur Bunney's at Battle Lake. Next day, - took Mr. Anderson to Wetaskiwin - bridges all out. Mrs. Anderson didn't hear a word of her husband for a week.

1914 - A little 5 year old son of Jim Hansen was lost. Searched for five days, he was found $\frac{1}{2}$ mile from home having died of exposure. He was the first buried in the Knob Hill Cemetery.

- War broke out. George Welsford was the first man in the district to be called. In order to make money for the Red Cross, many socials and dances were held.

- The first grain harvested was cut with a scythe and tied by hand. The first threshing machine was owned by Mr. Bunney.

by Mrs. Ellingson.

JACOB GLASEL

Mr. and Mrs. Glasel (Hulda) and three children, Albert, Leakadia and Irma arrived here from Lutz, Poland, July 9, 1929. When the family first arrived in Alberta, they visited with an aunt, Mrs. Kuhn, in Leduc. While there, they were persuaded to come out to Pendryl where they would be close to Mrs. Glasel's uncle Mr. Adolph Rachel. They homesteaded land SW $\frac{1}{4}$ - 10 - 46 - 5 - 5 and built a frame house 12 x 24.

Mr. Gust Bjur was the storekeeper and post-master at this time. The children attended Pendryl school and their first teacher was Miss Dorch. Some of the near neighbors were Trabachs, Rachels, Bjurs, Frasers and Engbloms.

Mr. Glasel cleared land with an axe and grubhoe and dug a well that produced very good water. Some prices at that time were: bed \$25.00; stove \$85.00; 100 pounds of flour \$5.00.

A handicap at this time was being unable to speak English but they were determined so were soon able to converse.

In 1930, Mr. Glasel went to Buck Lake to pull a net, while gone Mrs. Glasel lit a brush pile fairly close to the house, the wind came up suddenly and Mrs. Glasel and the children had to carry water to throw on the house to prevent it from burning. By the time Mr. Glasel returned the wind had changed and everything was well.

Over the next few years, four children were born to the family; Ernest, Arthur, Rodney; Ruth. Mr. Glassel passed away and Hulda now resides in Wetaskiwin.



First Glasel Home about 1929.
Jacob Glasel, Adolph Stephen, Joe
Walters, Wolfgang & Nicolson working.

CLAUS GOLDSTROM

In 1963, Claus Goldstrom purchased the quarter formerly owned by J.K. Penley along the old Battle Lake Trail. Mr. Penley purchased the land in 1924. J.K. Penley, was the owner of the Penley Dancing Academy in Calgary. J.K. and his brother Albert cleared a few small fields on the side hills because of the great amount of rain. They put up a good many tons of hay on the flat that is now flooded with beaver dams and on a quarter south of there.

Mr. and Mrs. Goldstrom wanted a place of quietness away from the city noise. This was the ideal place. There was a hogs back ridge through the centre of the quarter. On this they put a comfortable little dwelling that over looks the beaver dam to the south and the hay fields to the north. Even though Claus was retirement age he got a cat in and cleared around 40 acres. With some help he got about 25 acres into hay and got it fenced.

Mr. Goldstrom is a Commissionaire in Red Deer. They enjoy the peace and quietness with their old wood stove for heat and cooking and their old coal-oil lamps they had on their farm years ago at Innisfail. Many times they see deer grazing on the hill side near their cabin. In the spring they love the songs of the frogs and the birds. They named it Cushiondale after a pretty place in Ireland. The name means beautiful hills and dales. The ridge makes a natural high grade into their summer cottage on the hill.

HANK COLITZ

Farming at Leduc and in 1923 I came with a hunting party to Norbuck but didn't set eyes on Buck Lake until 1930 and kept on farming only coming to fish and hunt when my Dad came. In 1935 I started trucking and 1938 found me working for Edward Snell hauling lumber from Saskatchewan River to Bashaw and Wetaskiwin.

Merle and I were married in 1944 and we raised five children. Douglas, the oldest, owns Winfield Transport. He married Linda McLeod. They have two children. Bill married Mina Hutchinson - one child - live in Edmonton. Linda married Edward Byers - two children. They live at Telkwa, B.C. Judy married Wilford Halliday - two children. They live in Edmonton. Bobby lives at home and attends the Winfield School.

In 1948 when Mr. Etter died, Camp 6 was sold to D.R. Fraser Co. and I worked there until 1954 when the camp broke up after all the lumber was gone. This was the beginning of the end of "trucking". Went back to work for Carroll Bros. until 1961. I bought a school bus which barely gave me a living so had to haul coal for people in my spare time. Quit the bus business in 1965. Went to work at Grande Prairie for Park Bros. Construction. In 1970 I retired and now live on my farm west of Winfield.

WILLIAM GOODKEY

After being dried out and grasshopper plagued five years in a row at Byemoor, William Goodkey finally called a farm auction and just moved away; leaving his farm. The family arrived in the district in the spring of 1932. William, his eldest son Harvey, and his son-in-law, Alfred Carlson took up homesteads NE $\frac{1}{4}$ 33 - 45 - 4 - 5; SW $\frac{1}{4}$ 33 - 45 - 4 - 5 and SE $\frac{1}{4}$ 33 - 45 - 4 - 5 respectively. The first year, until they got their house built, the little cabins on the old Harold Wetherall place were home for the family of 14; plus the Charlie Wetherall and Johnny Walker shacks or shanties.

In the fall of '33, Jack and Alec worked at Wainwright harvesting. Wages in that district (\$5.00 per day-daylight to dark) were then considered good. The two years after their arrival were exceptionally wet and times very hard. Wages in the district for harvest help were \$1.00 per day and out of the district \$2.00 per day. Many families were forced to accept relief. This was a voucher of \$6 to \$8 per month and paid for some groceries. We were very fortunate to have nursing service and



Wm., Martin, Chris
(1949) Goodkey

it was as near to being free as it could be made. The only stipulation being that small bottles and containers, when empty, be cleaned and returned to the nurses cottage where they were sterilized and put away ready to use for the next patient.



Mildred & Jack Goodkey,
Mrs. Long, Harvey Long,
Ruby Myers, Audrey Good-
key, Alec Goodkey - 1935 -.

After a year, William realized that he could never clear and break up his homestead, and it was too far from roads, so he traded his 1928 Chev car to Mr. Alfred Engler for his farm, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ 5 - 45 - 4 - 5. Several years later he sold the farm to his brother Martin Goodkey, who in turn sold it to Lil Brown. It is now the home and property of David Willows. The Goodkeys continued living there; building a small house and a barn at the bottom of the hill, across from the Frank Willows home. They lived there until after Granny's passing in 1947. Grandad later moved into Winfield where he spent his last days.

Grandad and Granny Goodkey, as they were called by everyone in the district, were well known as they were willing and helped neighbors in many ways. Granny

acted as midwife to a good portion of the children born during her years here. It was well known that she would drop anything she was doing to go to the aid of an ailing neighbor.

The three parcels of land that these people originally homesteaded are now a part of the Medicine Lake Grazing Reserve #2 and are practically cleared of brush.

To this marriage were born twelve children; of which eight resided in this district.

Harvey married Tillie Hoover and had two girls, Darlene and Delores. Harvey now resides at Buck Lake.

Emma married Alf Carlson and has one son, Elmer. Emma and Alf are now retired and living at Buck Lake.

Garnold and his wife Emma have eight children, the family moved to Kamloops, B. C.

Alec married Audrey Long and had four children; Violet, Gordon, Eleanor and Clarence. Alec now lives at Buck Lake.

Ruby married Bruce Myers (deceased) and lives at Youngstown, Alberta.

Bill married Annie Wasyk and had one daughter. Bill now lives at Drumheller.

Mike married Krystine Wickman. They have three children, Carol and the twins Larry and Jerry. They now live at Abbotsford, B. C.

Of the eight children, only Jack continued to farm in the district. In 1934, he married Mildred Long, and has often stated that he started married life with a pair of chaps and a saddle horse. They rented the home place, better know as "28" from Mildred's father. Here they farmed for five years, milking Mr. Long's cows on shares; $\frac{1}{2}$ the offspring and $\frac{1}{2}$ the cream cheque. The cheque amounted to \$2.00 for a five gallon can, and calves sold from \$5 to \$10.

Mildred remembers the first years as "rather tough". At one time, unexpected guests arrived for the noon meal when there was very little food in the house. She fed them potatoes, and fresh lettuce salad from her garden.

In 1939, they moved to their present location; obtaining the farm by rental purchase from Mr. Long. There was no glass for windows in the house; only board shutters which were left open in fair weather. When it turned cold, wet or windy, they closed the shutters and lit the lamp. After a time, they built on to the house; and still unable to afford glass, gratefully accepted the gift of some windows from Mildred's father. These windows were stored in the cellar of the old house on "28". Over the years, the cellar walls had caved in and they had to dig through rubble and mud to retrieve the windows that were, for a wonder, intact. Then, they had to carry them, one on each end, over half a mile to a vehicle to get them home.

Jack worked on road construction on the "Jefferson" Hill. He had to travel 7 miles each day to work, and was paid 65¢ an hour for man and team for an eight hour day. Before wages were received, taxes had to be paid up to date or they were deducted from the wages.

In 1943, Jack bought a 1933 Chev which became the ambulance for anyone in need of it. Miss Conroy, district nurse, accompanied him on most of those errands of mercy. One very unhappy incident he recalls, was when he took the Aldrich baby out with pneumonia and the child died within a mile of the Wetaskiwin Hospital. Another he remembers was the night he and Miss Conroy took Mrs. George Moore to Rimbey with appendix. He returned the nurse home, then set out again, this time to Wetaskiwin taking Mynor Campbell who had broken his leg. Bob Willows was also a passenger when he was injured by a tree falling on his head.

In 1969, Mildred and Jack retired from active farming, but remain on the farm. The three children, Don, Margaret and Marian received their education at Pendryl; then later the girls attended Winfield school. Some of the teachers at Pendryl beginning from 1941 were Mr.

Thomas Baron, Mr. MacDonald, Mr. Griffin, Mrs. Sherburne and David Thomas.

Marion married Jack Sundberg in 1963. They live on the outskirts of Wetaskiwin with their two children; Travis and Shannon.

Margaret married Rowland Rupertus in 1959 and lived for a time in the district. Margaret now lives at Ponoka with their children Cindy and Hal.

Don still farms in the district. He worked at many different jobs, lumber camps, truck driving, road and oil field construction after leaving school. At one time, he owned the "Dewar" place, which he sold to Henry Samel. Since then he has purchased W $\frac{1}{2}$ 32 - 45 - 4 - 5 and the old "Krogh" place. In 1958, he married Judy Armstrong, coming back to the "Krogh" place to live in 1962, with the two boys Dean and Don. In July 1970, a baby girl Crystal Joy arrived to round out the family. The boys attend the Winfield School.

Though conditions could never be compared to those met by his father and grandfather; it is never easy to get a start at farming so Don still works part time, mostly in road construction, to augment the farm income.

GORDON GUARD

Diary, 1927 - 1971.

On December 28, 1927 Gordon and I (Marvel Hunt Guard) were married in Lethbridge. For the first few years we lived with my parents Mr. & Mrs. C. J. Hunt in the Keho district near Nobleford. Gordon helped Dad or worked out, mostly around Innisfail where his parents lived.



C.J. Hunt's - 79th Birthday
Mr. & Mrs. Guard & family, Mr. &
Mrs. Tom Sheridan, Elmer Johnson's,
Harold Hellervik's.

One day during the summer of 1932, while I was busy taking care of my two little ones, Jimmy & Clarice, I was called to the phone. It was a long distance call from Gordon asking me to bring the kiddies up to Innisfail and go with him to inspect some land around Buck Lake. Very quickly we were packed and on our way by train to Innisfail.

The next day two car loads, ourselves and the Whethams, six in all, arrived at Buck Lake. There we met Mr. George DeWitt who promised to take us across the lake. Although his own small boat was hired out, he rented a larger one and the seven of us piled in. It was a beautiful sunshiny day, so none had jackets, save Gordon carried his sweater. I was surely glad for that. In a very short time we could see a squawl coming up from the Northwest. Being the only woman aboard, I got the sweater. The wind rose, the sky darkened and

the rain soon poured down.

Our craft was not very seaworthy but some rowed and others bailed, so we did manage to keep afloat. Sometimes we seemed on waves a mile high, then down we'd go into the troughs between. I wasn't a very good sailor so sent out a silent prayer for our safety, and that our little ones, left at Innisfail, would be taken care of if something happened to us. Our prayers were answered. Soon we were gradually washed to the east shore of the lake, landed, made a fire to dry out and decided to walk the rest of the way to Mr. DeWitt's comfortable log home.

Gordon, I, Sid and Sandy Whetham each found quarters to our liking, filed on them at Edmonton and were shortly on our way home.

The spring of 1933 Gordon and the Whethams returned to their homesteads and started cutting logs and building, with the much appreciated help of George DeWitt and his son Ryland.

That summer my parents brought myself and the children up to the homestead where we spent ten or so delightful days. My Dad took up a homestead also at this time. Then the Whethams and ourselves left; they and Gordon to return that fall, and Dad and myself and children in January of 1934 to start homesteading in earnest. Our quarters were SE 32 and SW 33 - 46 - 5 - 5 and Dad's was NW 29 - 46 - 5 - 5.

It was a very exciting and worthwhile experience. We lived mostly from nature; fishing, hunting, berry picking and our garden. At first we had one cow and my frisky little saddle mare, Birdie. Occasionally we got to Winfield for a load of groceries, with a borrowed team, but usually the men, and occasionally we women, took turns weekly, riding or walking the seven

miles, through bush and swamp to Norbuck, bringing back groceries and mail for all three and sometimes four families. The Hellerviks and her brother, Ben Neilson, having settled on a homestead just east of ourselves.

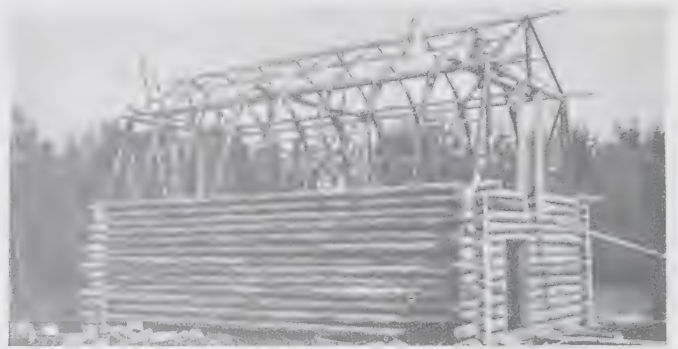
Though having little of this world's goods, we spent many happy times together, at Christmas, New Years, and birthdays; making a celebration of each one; and receiving exciting parcels from home.

Our children soon reached school age, but no school. I, being a teacher, decided to put mine on correspondence, and they went through the first four grades at home. I also taught the three Whetham children for a short while.

Time slipped away and the small community decided it must have a school. Arrangements were made, and it seemed almost no time until a sturdy log school, named Spruce Hill, stood on the scene. Children had to walk through the bush as far as three and four miles but enjoyed it all, as children do.



Cutting shingles at Guard's
late 1940's



Barn building - 1942 -



Vegetables grown at Guard's
- 1942 -

Sid Whetham's, Harold Hellervik's and ourselves; all had little ones born up here on our homestead, with only the nurse in attendance. Ken Hellervik was the first one to arrive. On the night of June 25, 1935, Mrs. Hellervik's brother Ben Neilson, taking the team and buggy, started to Pendryl for the nurse; while Mr. Hellervik started out on foot, with a lantern, to get Burt (Mrs. Sid Whetham) and myself. He arrived here past midnight, but I got up and quickly prepared to follow him; wearing running shoes as I knew, in the dark, water even going over my rubber boots. The little fellow had arrived when we got there, but having taken a short nursing course years before I had a foggy notion of what to do. Although we made a few mistakes, Burt and I, with a lot of good advice from three year old Sylvia, had

mother and baby warm and comfortable by the time the nurse arrived. Leaving for home very early, and forgetting where the sun should be at that hour, I lost my way. However, I soon got straightened out by observing the moss on northsides of trees.

I was lucky to have two nurses each time. When Stanley was born in July, 1938, my sister, Clara Thompson, a nurse, was here. I also had nurse Dorothea Ingelske, the district nurse. Larry, our fourth little one, arrived January 14, 1941, on one of the coldest nights of a Buck Lake winter. Elsie Cummings, a neighbor and nurse, braved the elements and walked up here; while Gordon drove on with team and sleigh for Helen Garfield. I believe Larry was Helen's first baby for this district. But they surely had to keep the wood fires roaring to keep the wee little fellow from freezing.

But there was one thing that caused anxiety, usually each spring, especially during a dry season - forest fires. There were several quite bad, but we all especially remember those in 1936 and 1941. The homesteaders and all available men would be called by the ranger to help fight and watch the fires until snow or rain completed the job. Many valuable stands of timber were lost. The one in 1936 came very close, sweeping along to the S. W. of our place. But the fire of April, 1941, stands out in our memory still very vividly. I might have forgotten a lot but I wrote a letter to my sister, Clara Thompson of Nobleford, at this time and she saved and returned the letter to me that we might have a record of the fire. Am going to copy parts of this letter.

"Saturday, 11:30 p.m. April 26, 1941 - I'm sort of a fire watcher tonight while Gordon gets

a bit of sleep. The whole place seems a mass of black ruin; but the house, woodshed and pile of wood are left standing. The rest of buildings etc are "gone with the flames". We're so thankful it was Saturday so the kiddies were home from school, and that our home is left. Well, will start at the beginning. Gordon had gotten off the other fire out N. W. the Friday week before. On the following Thursday we could see heavy black smoke rolling up just north of the Thompson's another homesteader whose land joined Gordon's to the north. The next morning Pete Whetham came over to get Gordon to fight fire. They were calling everyone that lived close. The fire had started just west of Sid Whetham's, burned westward then wind switched and it went east; north and east of Sid's right up to the main road to Norbuck. Men had to watch and backfire all night to keep from crossing road to Sandy Whetham's and Hellervik's. Men came home for breakfast, a couple hours sleep then back on fire. About 2:00 p.m. today the men suddenly noticed another fire sweeping in from the south towards the Spruce Hill School (our school). So Mr. MacKenzie, the fire ranger, left on his firey little horse, Red Wing, and found it had burned to Ben's house; rode on and found Mr. Hansen and another man had saved the school but fire was rushing on in front of a fairly strong S. E. wind. He raced back and gave orders for each man to go and protect his home. MacKenzie came back here with Gordon bringing a water bag and fire spray. Mac had to go on but Gordon, Jim, and Clarice started filling tubs etc. with water. Then Percy Clayton, living next quarter west of here, arrived. Thinking his place would be safe for awhile decided to help here. Mac returned saying fire was on my Dad's place just south and coming at a terrific speed. Then he went on. Kids were dousing roof, but Gordon told us to take the two little ones and go to the breaking. We took them and a few possessions; as my purse, water, school books: (as Gordon was secretary - treasurer) and left as quickly as possible. We barely made it! Such a wind, with flames leaping and roaring for rods in the air out to the south of us. The two babies cried at first but were very brave and played with Jim's watch and my little purse mirror. Before the fire reached our land the horses and cows came up so Gordon had tied them in. But later decided to move horses to north of woodpile and house, but forgot cows. Just as well, as if let out then they'd have gone ahead of fire and been burned. Gordon and Percy pumped water on house outside as long as possible and then went inside and found it burning inside through a broken window and corners of house and several places on ceiling. They nearly smothered, then water ran out, well crib at top and well rope had burned. They were afraid it would all go then, but at the last minute Sid, and Walter Oakes galloped both riding Beauty. Left her on breaking, and rushed over to house. Chopped down the kid's swing trees getting the rope, and then chopped away the burning cribbing to get water from the well to save the house. Now two were working inside and two outside. Still don't know how they saved it as terrible flames went over it. Burned all trees south of house, clothes pins off line, browned all logs on south and east sides of house and cracked all the windows, scorching my plants inside. Great sparks flew from south of house clear across the woodshed, wood pile and garden patch and started a row of fires north of there. When fire had swept past, straw and feed all around barn was burning so Gordon ran and let cows out, and they came safely to breaking then as all elsewhere was burning. Jim and I came and got horses and took them to a safer place north of breaking. Men threw out and saved many things from the granery and barn. All implements were saved and the hens and 13 wee chicks were safe even though the coop burned. Percy left when he thought safe to get through to his place, even though it was still a roaring mass of crackling flame and smoke in every direction. About 7:00 p.m. Mr. Adams and Raymond Durant came and hadn't known until going home for supper that fire had gone through here' as they were on west end of other fire. Mr. Adams didn't even know if his wife and family were safe, as they couldn't get through north of here and decided to try by Clayton's. At midnight Gordon got up so I scooted off to bed to try to get some sleep. At 6:00 a.m. Sunday morning, Gordon left to see how Clayton's were. Percy told Gordon he'd arrived home just before the fire struck there, and water was ready so he sent his mother to the root house while he and his brother Eric stayed to battle the flames. They were able to save the house and small shed, but barn and chicken house went. As the fire advanced, Mr. Lang came and took Clayton's horses and cows down there and Mrs. Clayton had gone on down to Lang's (DeWitt's place) thinking the boys would follow. Gordon went on down and found her there. She came home and got breakfast for the three of them. Our stock spent the night tied to the wagon and trees. On arriving home, Gordon took care of the stock and decided to go check on the Whetham's. They had backfired all night to the south and east, but had missed the north west corner and the wind was in the southwest. So they were soon to go through their ordeal. Sandy was sleeping so Gordon told Elsie there was fire to the west so he'd get water ready. He started pulling it and never quit until much later when the well went dry and fire was raging over the buildings. So he went to save the barn. Sandy, Sid and several other men were now helping to fight and carry water up

the hill from a tub at Sid's. Sid's boys, Pete and Lionel, had to keep the tub full from the creek farther down. So it kept them all jumping, never stopping for meals, but a sandwich. They saved all buildings but the little ones "out back".

Now we had no fenced pasture, nor feed for horses. But Sid so kindly offered us some and Mac carried over some sheaves, that very night on his pony, from there. On Monday Gordon got more feed and some of Burrows lumber that had missed the fire. He and the two kids then threw the wood out of the woodshed, putting in stalls. This served as a stable for the next year or so. Then they repaired well.

Now about Mrs. Adams and the four children. Mr. Durrant was somewhere looking after the lumber, and the Bookkeeper, being a city man, didn't know how to hitch up the team. Although her trunk was packed and everything ready they just had to rush off on foot to Lang's and leave everything, and even forgot her purse.

Several men had helped save Hellervik's and Mullin's places. And in the next day or so Gordon and others helped protect Lang's, Bruce Cummings', Ryland DeWitt's and a family on Pete Nelson's place. They did a lot of backfiring but there was no real danger. At the beginning, fire had come up so fast no one knew which way it was coming. Caused men all to separate and head for their own homes, as all were in danger at once; but it landed here first. It is such a miracle we saved the house.

We were quite cheerful, but the kids have missed three days of school. Gordon considered paths unsafe with burned trees ready to fall. Gordon said the fire did a lot of clearing for him. I guess ours and Dad's places are fairly well swept clean. However, this will cause delayed seeding". (End of letter).

Gordon went south to Nobleford every fall to help my brother-in-law, Robert Thompson, with harvest. But this fall we all went. And while there, Verle was born, in September, in Carmangay. My Dad came up every winter to do his homesteading duties, and Mother, Salome Hunt, came up for the winters of 1945-46 and 1946-47, but passed away that spring; and my Dad in 1954. The Whetham families, Bruce Cummings, and Claytons soon moved out; but Mrs. Evelyn Cummings, Bruce's mother, stayed on her homestead, here by the lake, until she was in her eighties. She now lives in the Senior Citizen's home in Edmonton. To help support our family, Gordon, and later Jim, worked at McDougall's camp #9 for a number of years.

The Clayton's, George DeWitt, and ourselves gave land for a road allowance. With roads, came cars and other conveniences. The phone and power did not penetrate this far into the bush until around 1964. About this time we built, and moved into, a modern dwelling. However, we were a bit sad to leave our dear old log home with its beautiful and exciting memories.

However, before this, in 1952, the three boys were not able to get out to go to high school Stanley had already taken grade IX by correspondence. So I decided to start teaching once again. That fall I started in Maywood, a rural school in the Strawberry School Division; with eight grades and about 20 pupils. I taught Verle, but the other two caught the high school bus to Winfield. The following year Maywood was closed and it, Minnehik, and Buck Lake became part of the County of Wetaskiwin. I then became the lower-grade teacher in Minnehik, teaching grades I to IV. That fall, 1954, Minnehik became over-crowded. They re-opened Maywood and it was the primary room grades I to III for Minnehik with myself as teacher. (Mrs.) Ester Fullerton became the new elementary teacher and Mr. Cumberland was the Junior High teacher there. By January of 1960, a new addition was completed on the Minnehik school and I was moved back there and acted as Primary teacher until I retired in 1968. Maywood still serves the community as a hall.

Stanley and Larry each took two years at Tech. School in Calgary. After which, Stanley took a job with A. G. T. there. Larry spent a year in electrical work at Uranium City.

Stanley is now married to Sharon Irvine of Calgary. They each took three years at, and graduated from, Foothills Bible Institute at Poplar Valley. They are now living in Edmonton and have two little girls. Stan pastors a small Pentecostal Holiness Church there.

Larry is married to Lois Goldsney of Winfield. Their quarter is the NE of 32, but at present they are living in Sundre. Larry has just received his pilot's license.

Verle is married to Linda Gunderson of Breton and they have two little boys and a baby girl. They own the NW of 33.

Jim, Larry and Verle have been in Construction work for a number of years. Jim now owns Dad's quarter and Clarice, the Clayton quarter. She raises registered Appaloosa horses. Jim also has several head.

GOVERNMENT

Townships 45 and 46 in range 3, west of the 5th were included in a small Improvement District #460 which was incorporated December 23, 1912. This small Improvement District had a local council with a Secretary - Treasurer. As from March 1, 1918, this Improvement District was established as the Municipal District of Columbia #460. This Municipal District had a local council and Secretary - Treasurer. The Municipal District of Columbia #460 was disorganized May 30, 1939 and became Improvement District #460, operated and managed by the Department of Municipal Affairs.

Improvement District #460 was incorporated into Improvement District #76 April 1, 1945 and was still administered by the Department of Municipal Affairs.

This area was incorporated into the Municipal District of Wetaskiwin #74 January 20, 1955 which later became the County of Wetaskiwin #10 on January 1, 1958.

With respect to townships 45 and 46 in ranges 4, 5 and 6, west of the 5th, this area was incorporated in an Improvement District #461 which was known as a Territorial Unit about 1913 with no local government and administered by the Department of Municipal Affairs. This area was incorporated into Improvement District #76 April 1, 1945 and was still managed by the Department of Municipal Affairs.

This area was incorporated into the Municipal District of Wetaskiwin #74 January 20, 1955 which later became the County of Wetaskiwin #10 on January 1, 1958.

JOHN GREEN

John Green was born in Esthonia and immigrated to Canada at the age of 19. In 1904 he took out a homestead, the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Sec. 4, Twnsp. 47, Rg 2, West of the 5th. The first three years, John was here alone. He built a small log house at first, then went on to build a bigger one before getting married. He built it all by his own hands, even to the doors and window frames.

Mary Kvist had immigrated from Finland. She was well educated and secured a position as a cashier in a store in Wetaskiwin. It was here John met her and they became acquainted. They carried on a correspondence and through this decided to get married. They were married around 1907.

He cleared 25 acres by hand and broke the land with a team of oxen. He farmed with the oxen until he got a team of horses which cost him \$130.00 and \$175.00 for them. One year he took his team, a walking plow and scraper and went to work on the construction of the old highway #19. The wages he got were just enough to pay the land taxes.

They started out with about 25 head of cattle, a few pigs and chickens. The cows were \$10.00 apiece and when a bull calf was born they killed it because they were worthless in those days.

The hay was cut by hand and John would go as far as two miles away from home to make hay. When it was time to harvest, they would cut the grain, haul it home, spread it out on the ground to let it dry. When it was dry, John would tie the horses together and have them walk over it again and again until it was well trampled and the grain was threshed out.

He also made his own shingle machine which ran off of water power. That is how he got the shingles he needed.

Later on John bought the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ 4 - 47 - 2 - 5 from Hunts Kimbow.

In the early years they went to town once a year, for it was a three day journey there and back. On those trips he had to carry an axe to clear a path for the horses.

John died in July 1929, from cancer and is buried at Knob Hill. Six children were born to John and Mary, all except one born at home. They were, Rosie; deceased in 1923, Emma, Mrs. John Garbauski, Edward, Linda (wed), Alfred and Martha (wed Bill Runtie).

Mary and the children kept on farming after John died. In 1930 they received \$23.00 for 8 gallons of cream, but the eggs were cheap, sometimes as low as 5¢ a dozen.

The two oldest children never went to school but Mary taught them at home. Alfred and Linda boarded out and went to Fern Creek School by Hulands for two years. The next two years they stayed at Ambusters and went to Fisher Home School, then the following two years they stayed at Phil Michky's place. Martha got her schooling at the Yeoford school. Alfred spent

sometime in the army, coming back home in 1943.

Mary passed away, April 28, 1964 at the age of 78 and is buried in Wetaskiwin. Alfred and Edward still farm the land their father homesteaded and live in the house he built so painstakingly over sixty years ago.

by Emma (Green) Garbauski)

TOM GRONOW



Gronow Family
Edward, Gwyneth,,
Erwin, Mrs. &
Mr. Tom Gronow.



Mr. and Mrs. Tom Gronow Celebrate Golden Wedding

Mr. and Mrs. Tom Gronow, of Sherwood Park Nursing Home, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on June 19th. The occasion was marked by an open house attended by all their family and many of their friends.

The couple have two daughters, Mrs. Gwyneth Thomas of Yeoford, and Mrs. Erwin Baumann, of Fisher Home. A son Edward died in an oil accident in 1933, while two other sons died in infancy.

During the tea there were several talks and speeches given. Phil Thomas, son-in-law was Master of Ceremonies. Mrs. Sam Steinke read a poem, and gave a short reading. She also gave a short talk on her association with Mr. and Mrs. Gronow. Phil Thomas gave a fitting toast to the happy couple, relating a short history

of their life. He also read a telegram of congratulations from Prime Minister Trudeau.

Albert Strohschein MLA presented them with framed congratulatory messages from Premier Storn and Lieutenant Governor Grant MacEwan.

There were several lovely floral bouquets presented by friends. Congratulations were also extended by the President of the Ladies Auxiliary to the Nursing Home, on behalf of staff and members.

Mr. and Mrs. Gronow were married in Brigend, South Wales, on June 19, 1920. They lived in Wales until March, 1928, when they came to Canada and took up residence in Selkirk, Manitoba. The next year Mr. Gronow was transferred to Calgary by the steel rolling mill by which he was employed. After the mill closed

down in 1933, the Gronows moved to Battle Lake to farm and then in 1939 they moved again, this time to a farm in the Yeoford district.

Their farm home in the Yeoford district was an octagonal structure which attracted the attention of many a passer-by. Many of the curious tourists of the day would dream up almost any excuse just to get a closer look at the structure.

The house, shown in the accompanying picture, acquired its shape through necessity. When it came time to erect a dwelling which would accommodate his family, Mr. Gronow found there weren't any logs long enough with which to build the traditional rectangular structure. After racking his brain he finally remembered a little octagonal church in the old country. This served as a pattern.

VERNON AND EDNA GROVER

Vernon and Edna Grover with their two daughters, June and Laverne, arrived at Knob Hill June of 1934 to take up residence on the SE of 28 where we have resided to the present time.

Three more children were born here, Shirley, Garry and Iris. Garry has taken over the farm. The four girls reside in Edmonton.

Vernon came originally from Minnesota, U.S. and I was born in England but spent my school years first in Saskatchewan and then at Taber, Alberta. We farmed for a short time near Milk River but depression and drought leaving us with \$6.35 from three hundred acres of wheat, eggs one cent a dozen, butter ten cents a pound, eight gallons of cream \$1.75 and sold our last twenty-two pigs for \$11.00 but never got paid. All this was the reason for the move north where fuel and a garden were available for the work.

We shipped our effects to Winfield, some machinery and a John Deere tractor, the first one in our area, four cows and one horse. We drove up with some household necessities in our old ton truck. From Ma-Me-O the trails were a nightmare of mud and swamp but we eventually landed and settled in a one room log cabin. There was a small log barn and enough cleared land for a garden.

That same year we were told by Mr. Clark, the station agent, that about twelve hundred families had come in by rail while everyday, settlers in wagons went by. At that time almost every quarter in our area was occupied but during the second war most of them left. Most of them worked in the mills and lumber camps in winter.

Vern hauled lumber from Sanford Nelson's Mill out east. No heater in trucks but roads were best in winter. Hauled sheep to Edmonton. Took a whole day to go if all went well. \$7.50 for trucking a double deck. Trucked three head of cows for a Mr. G. Wilburne of Yeoford and they didn't bring enough to pay the trucking.

Postmasters of Knob Hill until it closed were the "Stones". Mail was hauled by Mrs. J. Bunny, Morris Zarowski, Mr. Gunderson, Art Norman hauled at different times from Wenham Valley and Knob Hill to Winfield.

Being an old district, there was a community Hall in the S.E. corner of our quarter where we held community picnics every summer, baseball tournaments, meetings, Christmas programs, Church bazaars and concerts. People gathered from Winfield, Norbuck, Wenham Valley, Yeoford and Fern Creek. The hall was eventually moved to Yeoford.

Seattle School was one mile from our S.E. corner where three of the family received their public schooling. Many years the school was overcrowded and at one time was so much so that some families from south had to be denied entrance and so the Society School was built. One year the grade nines from Winfield went to Society. Some of our teachers were Miss Pearson, Simon Cook, Mrs. Essen, Mrs. Gee, Miss Brown, Mr. Matheson, Velma Doyle, Lola Smith, to mention a few. Salaries at this time were from sixty to eighty dollars per month and some walked two or more miles to school. I taught one term and was also the Secretary-Treasurer for many years. It finally became impossible to get teachers due to the war and a shortage, substitutes and correspondence were tried but weren't satisfactory so we decided to take our children into Winfield. Others wanted to do the same so Vern fixed up a jeep and so began the first bus to Winfield School in 1947. We were then in the L.I. District from which you received no help and no roads. All dirt roads, spring break-ups and winter snows were hazards the driver contended with alone. One small incident that I recall was a three day blizzard - all roads blocked. Vern walked to town three days to try to get the Cat from the mills to open our road. Finally one night, one did open it (we had to pay him). The next day neighbors hauling wood ploughed it back on with an old road grader, in large chunks. People had to be educated for many years. Truck drivers and cars refused to give them half of the road and many children were endangered while crossing the road as other vehicles refused to stop until it was strictly enforced. We formed a Snow Club, of which I was the Secretary-Treasurer, and with the help of Leduc County, which we were in then, acquired a snow plow, half of it paid for by the members and those with tractors did the work.

It was a number of years before any gravel was put on the roads but the bus had to go farther each year and pick up more children. Through all the hazards and difficulties, Vern drove for twenty-one years and very seldom failed to get them there on time or get them home late. Many times he didn't get home.

It has taken many kinds of pioneers to make our district what it is today but few have ever received the recognition they deserved. Mr. Wingblade our M.P. at that time got snow fences for us which was a real help. Now many big buses drive children to school and it's an accepted way of life. Many parents complain about the buses but how many would want the responsibility of sending their children to a country school. Some to walk miles and perhaps no fire on a winter morning when they arrived and certainly no indoor plumbing.

In the spring of 1937, one Sunday morning, we saw smoke curling up to the south. Soon it began to billow and we knew a bush fire had started. Our John Deere tractor was on a lath

mill at the west side of what was known as Anderson's Lake. Watching the fire it suddenly occurred to me that the tractor and mill were in it's path. Vern had been very ill with scarlet fever and had the children, so he was hardly able to walk. I ran to a neighbour and he had to get the team in and hooked up and drive one and one half miles. The big worry - will it start and then I wonder if someone else is trying to start it? Luckily they hadn't found the gas can as they knew nothing of how it should be done. Vern just had to tell them what to do and it started the first turn so they hooked it to the mill and Vern had to drive it out, through stumps and swamp about a half mile with the fire roaring behind, and sparks, etc. falling all around. With never a hitch or stop they made it to the road and the fire jumped the road just in front of them. Didn't get home until evening as they'd had to drive miles around as our road was blocked with fallen trees. The fire went on, to burn out a number of mills and some homesteaders around Norbuck. This was the worst fire close to us. There had been a lumber mill on the east side of this lake for years operated by the Elliasons, next a Mr. Carl Anderson and later by Paul Moseson. The fire took everything there - mill, shed, cook house and many cabins.

Mr. Vernon Grover passed away Dec. 10th 1971.

by Mrs. V. Grover

OLE GUNDERSON

Ole and Thelma Gunderson and three children Betty, Ronald, and Linda came in 1948 from East Coulee, Alberta. Ole was born in Norway and came to Canada in 1913. Thelma was born at Jumping Pound near Calgary. They came to Wenham Valley because Ole couldn't stand the dampness of the mines. They planned to raise pigs.

Johnny was born their first fall here. Lenard was born in 1957.

The second winter Ole hauled the mail from Winfield to Wenham Valley. Malcolm Nicholson had carried it on horseback before that a year. Ole worked at Carroll Brothers for four years. Betty married Tom McGovern and he's employed at the airport at Rigley, N.W.T. They have two children Tracy and Tommy.

Linda married Verle Guard. They have 3 boys, 1 girl and farm at Buck Lake.

Ronald married Shirley Wilson, has 1 boy and is driving an oil company truck at Drayton Valley.

John married Gwen Gamble and works in Edmonton. They have 1 boy and make their home at Leduc.

Len attends grade 9 at Breton school.

EARLY GOVERNMENT

Townships 45 and 46 in range 3, west of the 5th were included in a small Improvement District #460 which was incorporated December 23, 1912. This small Improvement District had a local council with a Secretary - Treasurer. As and from March 1, 1918, this Improvement District was established as the Municipal District of Columbia #460. This Municipal District of Columbia #460, was disorganized May 30, 1939 and became Improvement District #460, operated and managed by the Department of Municipal Affairs.

Improvement District #460 was incorporated into Improvement District #76 on April 1, 1945 and was still administered by the Department of Municipal Affairs.

This area was incorporated into the Municipal District of Wetaskiwin #74 January 20, 1955 which later became the County of Wetaskiwin #10 on January 1, 1958.

With respect to townships 45 and 46 in ranges 4, 5 and 6, west of the 5th, this area was incorporated in an Improvement District #461 which was known as a Territorial Unit about 1913 with no local government and administered by the Department of Municipal Affairs. This area was incorporated into Improvement District #76 April 1, 1945 and was still managed by the Department of Municipal Affairs.

This area was incorporated into the Municipal District of Wetaskiwin #74 January 20, 1955 which later became the County of Wetaskiwin #10 on January 1, 1958.

CHRIST AND THERESA HAMERL

Christ and Theresa Hamerl married November 26, 1912 and came to SE 24 - 46 - 2 - W5 at Battle Lake from Heisler about 1940. Their only son Art stayed on the farm at Heisler.

Alice and Edna were out of school.

Jean and the twins Doris and Deloris finished their school at Cree Valley and Lakedell.

Edna and Pete Maciborski and family live at Grand Paririe.

Wally and Jean Comeaux and family live at Anchorage, Alaska. They have experienced severe damage to their home from earthquakes since going to Alaska.

Christ passed away after they moved to Grand Prairie where Theresa still resides.



MR. AND MRS. CARL HAGEN Aug 18/971

Mr. & Mrs. C. Hagen Mark 50th Year

A large gathering of relatives and friends was on hand recently at the Ma-Me-O Legion Hall for an evening reception, open house and dance honoring Mr. and Mrs. Carl Hagen on their 50th Wedding Anniversary.

Mr. and Mrs. Carl Hagen were married in Wetaskiwin on July 4th, 1921. They farmed in the Battle Lake district until their retirement in 1968, when they moved to Wetaskiwin.

All of their eight children were present for the anniversary celebration: Kues of Battle Lake; Marian (Mrs. Julius Deatrich) of Cronbrook, B.C.; Mrs. Bob Williams of Watson Lake, Yukon; Doris (Mrs. R. Metcalf) of Edmonton; Joyce (Mrs. Al Carder) of Bawlf;

Darleen (Mrs. Leo Fontaine) of Battle Lake; Charles of Battle Lake; Bernice (Mrs. Bernie Van Sieghem) of Olds. The Hagens have 25 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

In the early 30's Syd bought a 1927 Model Ford truck with worm drive and top speed of fifteen miles per hour. He hauled his home grown wheat into Wetaskiwin once a year to be ground into flour. While there the boys would take in a picture show.

In 1941 Nelson joined the R.C.A.F. and in 1942 Jack joined the army. Their dad, Syd, moved to Calgary in 1942 where he also joined the R.C.A.F. Bruce then 10 years old attended school in Calgary.

In 1945 Syd was discharged from the service and returned to his farm at Winfield.

On account of his wife having arthritis, Syd bought a house in Winfield in 1950 where he retired. That same year, his son Jack was killed in an accident while working on a car in his garage.

In 1956 Mrs. Handbury passed away after a long illness.

The girls Hilda and Doris are married and are living in Victoria. Helen is at Camrose and Bruce is with Calgary Power and resides in Wetaskiwin. Nelson lives on a farm three

SYD HANDBURY FAMILY

In 1923 Syd Handbury made several trips from Bittern Lake to these parts to locate a homestead on which he had a shack built by Harry Dewar and his Dad. In June of 1923, accompanied by Sandy and Bill Turnbull and the Weiss brothers, he moved his family, his wife Carry, two sons, Jack and Nelson and daughter Hilda who was nine months old. It took two long weeks to make the trip from Bittern Lake to the homestead, four miles west of what is now Winfield but did not exist at that time.

They came by horse and wagon and drove twenty head of cattle and ten milk cows which were milked on the way. Syd cleared his land by hand and broke it with horses. He started a five acre market garden from which he supplied vegetables to the lumber camps and stores in Winfield. He also butchered and sold meat and eggs to the camps.

In 1935 he built a two story log house. The children attended the Winfield school which was built west of Winfield Tressel. The school was situated here in order to get seven children to start a school.

Syd was president of the U.F.A. The members got together and logged a piece of land and with the use of Mr. Drader's mill, sawed and planed enough lumber to build a hall, which was built with voluntary help.

The cream was hauled to Hoadley by horses down an old Indian trail about twenty miles at which time groceries were bought. They also bought groceries and got mail at Yeoford store from Mr. Nowells.

miles west of Winfield.

Syd at the age of 82 is keeping up his home in town and is enjoying good health.

OUR HISTORY IN THE NORBUCK DISTRICT, as recorded by Mrs. Hart Hagen, (nee Millicent Ings.)

The first of our family to arrive at Norbuck was my Dad, James Ing. The reason he became interested in that part of the country was that he read in the Home Loving Hearts, of a Mrs. Bunney that grew an exceptionally large carrot. He thought that must be a good district.

After successive crop failures at Kirriemuir, Alberta, he left for Norbuck in the spring of 1929. He didn't have money to file on a homestead, so he worked for Sanford Nelson at fifteen dollars a month, which was going wages then. He filed on the south-west quarter of section seven. He returned to Kirriemuir and in 1931 he and my mother, and my sister and her husband, and two little girls, Pearl and Joyce moved to Norbuck. Mr. Chapin Senior followed later.

In the spring of 1937 I came to visit my folks at Norbuck while Hart looked for a new location. He didn't find anything suitable so he came there and liked the country. He came by car and was the first one to drive with a car to Uncle Dick's. We soon sold the car.

We lived in a tent the first summer, then in a log shack on my Dad's place. We bought the south-east quarter of section seven, the same section as my Dad, and fixed up the old log house that was there.

We had another son Alfred, born at Rimbey in 1939. We had a hard time to get established as Hart had swamp fever the first summer we were there and suffered from ulcers on his eye afterwards. He later had to have his eye removed.

We managed to get seventeen acres cleared and broke. We had some very good crops of oats, barley and hay. We had no fences so we had a hard time to keep track of our cows. They would often get across the canyon.

This canyon ran between our place and my Dad's and I often had to walk across with the baby in my arms. When I came back I sometimes had groceries in a pack on my back and the baby in my arms with Harold running along beside me.

Our closest Post Office and store was at Norbuck. Hart often carried groceries from there in a pack sack which was about four miles. Our postmaster was Frank Rath.

When Harold became school age we had to take correspondence school for him as we were too far from Norbuck or Wenham Valley.

Our neighbors were; Tom Swanby, Ole Thompson, Leonard Erickson, O'Briens, Hastings's, Mayers, and our relatives, Mrs. Carrie, Hatherley, Willie and Florence, who lived where Ray Matthews is now, and Uncle Dick Ings, and my folks.

We had a spring down at the creek on our place. We had to carry all our water from there and I washed clothes down there in the summer. It was about a quarter of a mile from the house. We later set off a dynamite charge in the well by the house and a piece of rock flew out and cut off a poplar tree beyond the barn where the men had gone for shelter. We had water in the well after that.

We skidded logs up from the canyon, sawed it into blocks and loaded a double wagon box and sold it in Winfield for one dollar and fifty cents a load.

We finally purchased a horse and made a cart from two wagon wheels. I used it to go to a Ladies Aid meeting at Wenham Valley, and on the way home one of the wheels came off. They were too heavy for me to lift so I got my two little boys on the horse and got on the horse myself and rode home.

Another time I had taken Dad's horse and buggy and picked up Aunt Carrie and Florence and we drove up near Swanby's to pick berries. On the way back we stopped to pick peas from my garden and had tied the horse to a gatepost. Alfred had just fallen asleep so we left him in the buggy and were keeping a close watch, but when we looked again the horse and buggy were gone. We saw the tracks leading down the trail through the bush towards the canyon. When I caught up to her she had crossed a narrow bridge on the creek, and a steep hill and bridge over the canyon and was standing at the gate to Dad's pasture. It took an experienced driver to drive through that road, so I'm sure the Lord rode in that buggy and guided it that day. The baby was crying but unhurt, but our berries were spilled.

For entertainment we met in different homes and played games and music. We also met for Prayer meetings and song services. We had Sunday School at Norbuck School and sometimes attended the Church at Knob Hill. One Christmas there was no snow on the

ground and we went with the Ted Chapins to the Christmas Concert at Knob Hill in a lumber wagon. What a bumpy ride! One Christmas the Knob Hill Ladies group sent us a large parcel. I hope they know how much it was appreciated.

Hart was good at trapping weasels but one Christmas when we were short of money he took the traps to Breton and sold them. He came home with so many mysterious parcels even I didn't know what was in them. The boys and I had trimmed a tree and we look back on that as one of our nicest times at Christmas. We always got together with the rest of the relatives for Christmas day, either at my folks or Uncle Dick Ings.

When I arrived at Winfield by bus, I heard the fires were bad around Chapins and Ings and everyone was busy fighting them. There was no one there to meet me so I took a room at the hotel and had bathed and fed the baby and had put him to bed, and was preparing for bed myself when my brother-in-law, Ted Chapin, came to get me. I was thankful to the hotel man (can't remember his name), as he gave me back my money and didn't charge me anything for using the room. We stayed at O'Briens that night as the rest of my folks were at Chapins. My Dad had buried all the valuables from his house in case it burned, but they managed to save it.

Once when I was alone with the children I got up in the morning and saw a bear out by the barn. I took the rifle and fired a shot to scare it. It kept coming back, and Hart was afraid to leave home to go to work. It only came at night so he couldn't get a shot at it. So he finally set the gun so it would shoot itself using honey for bait. However it just wounded itself and he couldn't find it in the dark. So he got Walter and Charlie Ing to come, and in the morning they found it not far from our house. It took a shot from each of their guns to kill it. We were afraid to let the children out to play after that, and I carried a gun when I went to milk the cows, but we soon forgot about it and life went on as usual.

We sent to the W.W. Arcade in Edmonton for wire and strung it through the trees across to my Dad's. We each had a pair of old radio earphones and this served as our telephone and saved us many a trip back and forth. It ran on the fences to Hastings, Chapins and Heatherleys as well.

There is not much comparison between then and now. As there is power, telephones, and good roads, we had poor roads, no power or telephones.

The reason we left there was because we were too far from school for beginners. We always intended to go back to our farm as we liked it very much out there. We moved to Bawlf and then to Ohaton where we now reside.



Mr. and Mrs. Dick Ing
and Family

Look for
Hart & Millicent Hagen
Picture on Page 170



Mr. and Mrs. James Ing about 1936.

ORTON HANNA

Orton Hanna came to Winfield Dec. 1930 in a model T Ford from Coronation through Wet askiwin and out through the old Battle Lake Yeoford Road. He worked for A.E. Drader the winter of 1931 and then filed on S.E. 33 - 46 - 3 west of 5th. Here he build a shack 14 X 18 feet and wintered there until 1936. He worked in Lacombe during the spring and summer months with Si Pountney in Lacombe in his shoe shop. This is where I met my wife who was working in Lacombe and staying with her sister Mrs. Merle Whitney. I moved my shack into Winfield from the homestead and started up our own shoe shop. We were married in Edmonton May 8 and

lived in the back of the shop. I worked for Mrs. Allen Samuel in the Tavern Cafe beside the butcher shop that was run by Mr. Ginther in 1937. We had four children while owning the shoe shop. They were Velma, Kenneth, Darlene, and Jim. Then we sold the shoe shop to Jack Pountney and purchased our present farm. Don was 7 years younger than Jim. We now have 15 grandchildren. The children are all married and making their homes in Edmonton except Velma and her husband and four children (2 girls and 2 boys) who have their home in Camrose.

Darlene and husband have three girls.

Ken and wife have two girls and one boy.

Jim and Pat have four boys and one girl.

Don and Lorraine have no family as of yet.

We are on the farm on the hill and I expect to retire there.

Orton and Eltha Hanna



Hart and Millicent Hagen and
and Harold



Mr. Haggkvist on Binder.
From left- Ruth, (child unknown),
Ranghild, twins- Holgar and
Folke, Mrs. Haggkvist.

AGNES (HAGGBLAD) HAGGLUND

Agnes Haggblad (Hagglund), Pete Bjur's daughter and granddaughter Ethel made many trips to Lacombe (horseback) where they bought horses and took them to Luscar where they resold them. Agnes' husband Nick worked in the coal mines in Luscar. A cave-in in 1953 claimed his life. Later, she married Mr. Hagglund. Her son Larry married Carol Bohning.

Agnes still lives on the farm here. The house, built in 1923 and barn built in 1926 are still in good use. Reminiscing, Anges remembers small creeks swollen to river size which had to be crossed. She also remembers the many happy get-togethers of early settlers.

E. HAGGVIST

Mr. and Mrs. Evald (nee Elizabeth Matilda Amundson) were born in Sweden and immigrated to Canada in 1915, homesteading on the eastern shore of Buck Lake in the spring of 1918.

Six children came with them, Sigvard, Gota (eldest - now deceased) Ragnhild, Ruth, Holger and Folke (twins). All reside in B.C. except Ruth who now resides at Helena, California.

In the fall of 1946 Mr. and Mrs. Haggkvist sold their homestead farm and moved to Lacombe, then to Mission, B.C. Later they made their home with their daughter Ruth in Spokane, Washington and their last years with daughter Ragnhild Edlund at Summerland, B.C. Both lived past the age of 90 years and are buried at Summerland.

VICTOR AND SELMA HANSEN

I, Anna Wold, wife of Elvin, was born Hanson and came from Sweden in 1928 with the rest of my family except for my Dad who arrived here a year earlier. His name was Victor Hanson and he homesteaded four miles south east of Breton. He built a two roomed shack on the land and worked out at camps the first winters. If he had had the money for a one way ticket, he would have gone back to Sweden where we had a good job, home, roads and electricity.

We ran into a lot of trouble before we finally landed here in Canada. There was mother, my oldest sister, Essy, Hilding, Nils, Hans, myself (Anna), Carl, Gunhild and Gunnar - a lot of tickets and the English Liner was the cheapest so mother decided we would take that route.

We finally arrived in Wetaskiwin. Dad was harvesting east of Wetaskiwin in the New Sweden area at that time. He had walked into Wetaskiwin eight to ten miles one way several times to see if we weren't there. We finally arrived this Sunday night. He had walked in and was there to meet us. He didn't recognize mother. He saw kids going all directions and didn't know it was his family. Finally he saw Hilding and called. The place was poorly lit so it was hard to distinguish anyone.

He phoned out to the folks he was working for, W.E. Pearson, and they brought two cars into town.

The folks had to make special effort to buy cows milk. It was brought in from Wetaskiwin by Doctor's orders. He died of a heart attack in 1960.

Hilding took sick the same year. He was in the hospital six weeks with pernicious anemia. He was sent home with some travelling salesman, still quite ill. We had no road into our place so he was left at a neighbours place a half mile away. They let us know and he was carried home in a rocking chair with sticks through under the seat to act as a stretcher. It was muskeg nearly all the way. You would mire down over your knee high rubber boots, no use wearing them. He died two weeks later at home at the age of seventeen.

Nils passed away in 1948 at the age of thirty-four.

Hans lives and owns the land across the road from the home place.

Gunnar lives only a mile east of there.

Gunhild lives west of Breton.

With all these problems we always managed to keep the wolf from the door without having to ask for assistance, or relief as they called it then.

Mother passed away in 1961 at the age of seventy-one. At no time was she disappointed in coming here. She wanted to go back to Sweden for visits only.

Dad visited Sweden several times and went there in May 1966 and died ten days after arriving there. I went to Sweden the same month and arrived there in time for funeral arrangements.

Anna Wold



Back row L. to R.: Victor Hansen, Nils, Hans, Selma Hansen.
Front row L. to R.: Carl, Gunnar, Gunhild, Anna.

CHARLES HALISHEFF

Charles and Nellie Halisheff and their two children Bill and Olga came from Calgary, in the spring of 1940, to the Morley Williams place. It was on the south shore of Battle Lake at a spot known as Berry Point because of the wild raspberries that grew there. Their oldest daughter, Anne, stayed in Calgary where she married Bill Perry. They now live in Vancouver. Bill married Delma Evans who lived in the district with her parents. They now live in Edmonton and have a family of four boys - Harold, Arthur, Duane and Craig. Olga married Frank Lind of the Homeglen district and they still farm there. They have one son John and one daughter Terry.

Charles and Nellie rented the farm from Morley Williams for a time. Then they left the farm and worked for Nilsson Brothers sawmill at Grand Prairie for several years. The Nilssons were grandchildren of the pioneer family that moved to the Battle Lake district in early years. Upon leaving the sawmill, Charles and Nellie bought their own land back in the Battle Lake area north of the Battle Lake store. They sold their land to Arthur Pahl in 1968 and retired to Wetaskiwin. He passed away in August of 1970. Nellie still resides in Wetaskiwin.

Olga Lind

ED AND (NELLIE)ELLEN HAMLING

I was born at Braham, South Devon, England December 23rd, 1901, came to New Dayton, Alberta April 23, 1920. Nellie and I were married June 22nd, 1922. We lived at Fern Creek until 1932 and then moved to Yeoford in the spring of 1935 to our homestead N.W. 35 - 46 - 3 - W5 July, 1937. Nellie was born at Ezburg, Scotland on August 9, 1896. She died September 8th, 1956. They had four children, Earl, born August 31, 1917 (only surviving member of Nellie's former marriage), Violet, born December 25, 1925, Robert born June 22, 1928 and Edward, born Dec-

ember 24, 1931.

Ed came to New Dayton to help a brother then but later adventure brought them to Fern Creek and Yeoford. They moved up from New Dayton along with Gene, the Seely family who had a herd of horses. Dick Blake also came at this time. Seely's lived the first summer with Carl Edlar and Dick Blake stayed with his Dad on the Slim Johnson place.

Homesteaders along the route would let the women use their kitchens to cook bread, pasteries and cookies to be eaten on the road. Somewhere near Rimbey we came to a "sink hole" in the road. Lead horse stopped and refused to cross, the ones behind kept going and pushed him on into the muck. They then started backing up. Finally he got the horses out but he was a sorry sight.

In 1956 Nellie died and Ed left to work in southern Alberta until 1968. He returned to Yeoford in 1969 to live. He took an eight month holiday by air to England in December of 1965. He went by air to Australia to visit sister and brother and son Edward and his wife returning by boat to Vancouver, August 1966.

Ed Jr. and his wife Mae are still in Australia. They have two boys and one girl. Violet wed Ben Olson and lives in Glen Park and they have two girls and one boy. Earl and his wife, Rovie are both deceased.



WINFIELD PEE WEE HOCKEY TEAM

at Weyburn, Sask. Hockey Tournament, 1967. L. to R. Back row: Cory Lambert, Keith Adams, Howard Betlamini, Danny Carruthers, Rod Ollenberger, Raymond Fontaine, Dennis Engblom, Danny Willows, Eddie Wager, Alvin Harmacy.

L. to R. Front row: Glen Carruthers, Rodney Becker, Murry Hutchinson, Bert Long, Rocky Cartier, Bob Goltz, Jimmy Berg, Randy Cartier, Doug Goltz.

ALVIN HARMACY

Alvin Harmacy - Born Sept, 1938

Darcy Harmacy - Born July 1944

Laurel Harmacy - Born Oct. 1951

Family of John and Mildred Harmacy.

I married Brenda Degraff in 1962. She came from the Big Valley area. I was employed in Liberia, West Africa returning to Canada in the spring of 1964 then returned to Winfield where I had grown up. In September we purchased the hardware business from Mrs. A.C. Engler moving the stock to the building my father had operated as a grocery store. We had four children - Shawn, 10 years old, Deborah, 8 years old, twin boys Kent and Trent, 3 years old.

Brenda and I have been keenly interested in Local Recreation particularly hockey and curling. I have enjoyed coaching the Pee Wee teams from 1965 to 1971. Glen Carruthers, Doug Goltz and I accompanied them to the Hockey Tournament at Weyburn Sask. This was a big undertaking with district residents rallying to raise \$600.00 within two weeks to buy new uniforms and pay for travelling expenses for the team.

In the spring of 1970 Paul Slucinski, Glen Carruthers and myself accompanied the Winfield Pee Wee team. This was the A Division which went to Rocky Mountain House to the tournament there. They won the A Division but lost out to Bentley in the trophy game.

RALPH HARRIS

Ralph Harris was born and raised in England. He came to Canada in 1910 and homesteaded south-west of Battle Lake in 1912. In March 1913 he married Frances Eastman. They lived on the homestead. They started out with a team of horses, wagon and one cow. He worked in the winter time, cooking in a lumber camp for Walter Fullerton at the east end of Battle Lake. He also cooked for Ed and Ward Snell in their lumber camp. In the summer time he cleared brush with an axe on the homestead to improve it and broke land. He seeded the land by broad casting it by hand. When they threshed, they used a steam engine and they carried the grain to the granary in sacks on their shoulders. It was hard work.

Stumps were used for chairs around our table in early years.

They had eight children, one boy died when three days old. There are three sons, Fred and James of Westeros and Raymond of Crystal Springs. They also have four daughters (Alice) Mrs. Vitaly Volinkin of Wetaskiwin and (Dolly) Mrs. George Nilsson and (Doreen) Mrs. Buster Loe of Westeros and (Ellen) Mrs. Jim Smallwood of Calgary.

Ralph Harris died January 13, 1931. He was forty-two years old at the time of his death. His wife died on November 27th, 1961. She was seventy years old.

Alice Volinkin.

WILLIAM HASTINGS

William Hastings was born in England. Ida Berg was born in Loveland, Colorado. My parents homesteaded in Washington. William and I were married in Alberta, Canada. Our first married years we moved a lot and then settled near Gull Lake west of Lacombe. We had one son Harry. He came with us when we moved up to Wenham Valley in the spring of 1938. We came up to this Cambridge homestead in a hayrack with a canvas over the top and sides. We had four horses and some cows and calves and a crate of chickens on the back of the rack. Some way one of the boards on the crate came loose and some of the chickens got out. We were near Pigeon Valley school and some of the children were on their way home. They told us some of our chickens were getting out and they helped catch them. It was really funny too - the chickens going in every direction and boys and girls chasing them. As far as we know, we caught most of them. When we got near Wenham Valley store and P.O., we took the wrong road and went down on the flats across from Jap Bunney and Art Norman farms. We had to go back to Wenham Valley store and P.O. and when we drove past Art Norman's home, he saw us passing by and so he followed along and helped us unload and set up the stoves and beds. We have never forgotten to be thankful for his kindness. Also Tommy Gilmore and his wife, our old friends while we lived in Calgary, told Art Norman we were on our way up. We lived on the Cambridge place for two years. From there we moved to the Duncan place near Norbuck. We were there about two years when our son Harry bought the Johnson Brothers (Enoc and Nat) farm which is still our home.

My sister Mrs. Sophia Duncan and son James came up from Ogallala, Nebraska in the year 1941. She has since lived here and made her home with us. In April 1951 my husband William passed away and I have made my home with my son Harry. He is on the maintenance crew for the County of Wetaskiwin No. 10. in Division 6 under Jack Pountney who was councillor for 17 years until the fall of 1971. In this election Virgil Blackmore ran and won the election by a small majority. Pountney's have two children Brad and Peggy.

W.J. HAWKINS

Wilfred J. Hawkins and his wife, Lila, had lived for many years at Pine Lake, Alberta where they had developed raw land on the lake front into the Lake's End Resort. In the fall of 1961, they decided to look for an acreage on Battle Lake as a summer project and possible future resort. They had a good idea of the work and effort involved to develop the raw fraction they purchased from the County of Wetaskiwin.

They began work in the spring of 1962 on PT. N.E. 15 - 46 - 2 - 5. All the plywood, tools and materials needed for the first cabins were brought across Battle Lake from the north by boat, because there was no access road from the main road down the hill, on the property itself. During the time Wilf owned the land, both Dohlmans from Winfield and Leo Fontaine from Battle Lake, did "Cat" work on the hill to make the present road with two switch backs. Gravel was hauled in and spread on the private road, although the County never did gravel its portion of the road. A few drops of rain, or an overcast sky was enough to send everyone scurrying to move all vehicles out to the main road, lest a storm leave them stranded down at the lake.

During the fall of 1962-63, Wilf and Lila moved their cattle from Big Valley to the old Bud Fontaine farm and spent the winter there, but decided against living there year round, as the low cattle prices of those years and long winters made range cattle in this area uneconomical compared to Big Valley. During the years the Hawkins' owned the fraction on the lake, they, themselves, built a boat warf, a small house on cement foundation as well as a boat bridge and car crossing over the creek. Wilf built about six boats, during the winters - of different sizes suitable for an outboard motor, family outings or fishing. The Battle River Planning commission hindered his proposed cabin building and plans for a small refreshment stand. Poor health then forced the Hawkins' to sell the Battle Lake property in the fall of 1969, which was by then, becoming a better known and popular retreat area for people from

Edmonton. It was purchased by the David Scott family of Edmonton.

ROY W. HAWKINS

Roy, Molly and Jim (one month old) moved onto their farm in April 1962. They had bought a half section (N.E. 23 - 46 - 3 - W5 and S.E. 30 - 46 - 2 - W5) from the Bill Harrison's. They had lived in Banff where Roy worked for the Dep't of Northern Affairs as an assistant warden. Roy and his father, Wilf, had helped Roy's brother, John, to homestead at Buck Lake in the early 1950's.

At first, the family lived in a small house they had moved from Red Deer as the old house was unsuitable to live in. Although they had applied for the rural telephone and power in the fall of 1961, the telephone was not installed until summer of 1962 and the power in the spring of 1963. In 1964 and 65, they built onto their house, tripling its size. In 1964, Joanne was born and since then, three foster children have also called the Hawkins' home.

They purchased the old Bill Astle land from Bill, but later sold this to Earle Coombes of Cremona; and bought the E $\frac{1}{2}$ and SW $\frac{1}{4}$ 30 - 46 - 2 W5 from the County of Wetaskiwin. At present, they farm the half section which belongs to Ken and Wilma Stone of Calgary, and the quarter belonging to Oscar Ostrum as well as their own land.

For the first few years, they milked cows but about 1966 decided to raise sheep instead. Future plans include range cattle and more sheep. Roy has been a school bus contractor with the County, driving children from the Battle Lake area to Winfield School since 1966, and before 1965, drove Percy Russell's bus. Roy and Molly have had the County pound since 1968 or 69.

THE ERNEST HAYES STORY

Ernest Hayes, the eldest of a family of twelve, was born south of Hanna about twenty miles in a country home. His father was Arthur Hayes and his mother was Catherine Sinclair. His father, of Irish descent, came from Prince Edward Island about 1916 to the Hanna area and his mother came from Scotland as a young girl with her family. They all lived on the family farm until grown up. They had their schooling at the Normandale School, south of where they lived. This school has been moved away now. The Normandale School was built in 1912 as were so many of the schools in that part of the country. His mother and two of his brothers Leroy and Bobby are still living on the home place. Art Hayes lives at High River, Pat lives at Red Deer.

The rest of the family are scattered through Alberta and British Columbia.

Arthur Hayes, the father, passed away on May 7th, 1960. They have also suffered the loss of a brother and sister in 1959 and 1964.

Meryl (Robbs) Hayes

THE MERYL (ROBBS) HAYES STORY

I, Meryl Robbs, was born in the Hanna Hospital, the oldest of five, and the daughter of the late Joseph Robbs and Jenny Tomson. We lived on a farm in the Lone Butte district, twenty-six miles S.W. of Hanna. We were on the south-east edge of the Hand Hills. My mother and father were married in Calgary on July 31st, 1924. Mother came out from Winnipeg, a city girl, coming into the country. She didn't know anything about country life. She found it hard for a number of years. My Dad purchased a Chevrolet car in 1926 and a one ton truck, Chevrolet in 1927. This truck Ernest and I still have to this day.

In those days we went to the Lone Butte School, by horses, a team and a sleigh in the winter and a horse and buggy in the summer. I can still remember those hot rocks mother used to put in the sleigh for us to put our feet on to keep them warm while we went four and a half miles to school. She used to put these rocks in the kitchen stove even all night to get them hot, but not too hot!

In 1937 they got another school moved into our district, closer for us and for some of our neighbours and this school was called North-West Turnbull. It was here that we finished our schooling to grade ten.

In 1938 we started a purebred herd of Herefords. In 1944 my Dad bought the Champion Hereford bull in Calgary, the owner being W. Crawford-Frost of Nanton, Alberta. In 1945 we sold most of the herd by Dispersal Sale in October. The next year we bought seven head of heifers from the Wyoming Hereford Ranch in Wyoming.

Then in July 1948, my Dad passed away from a heart attack. My mother passed away

in March 1950. Then we had a complete Dispersal Sale in the Livestock Pavilion in Calgary.

In 1952 our second oldest brother, Jim, got married and took the home place over and he and his family lived there for ten years.

In 1962 they sold the place and had an auction sale and sold everything and then moved to Hanna, where he still lives.

The youngest brother Lyle is living north of Bluffton on a nice quarter and he is also married. Robert Knaust married my sister Gloria and they have two children. They used to have a place south of Hanna but they sold out too, and moved to Calgary. My oldest brother, Lorne is living near Hanna on an acreage. He is in the trucking business.

Ernest Hayes and I, Meryl Robbs, were married on September 20th, 1953. We bought a farm in the Rose Lynn area, three miles from the Hamlet of Rose Lynn. The place we bought was owned by Johnny McCloskey, an old timer in the area. He homesteaded on this place in 1909. We lived here for twelve years and here is where our three children were born. Sharon, the oldest went to the Sheerness School for one and one half years. We were very happy at Rose Lynn. There was lots of hard work and some real dry years. But it seemed we always managed to get enough feed to winter our cattle.

We also had some real bad hail storms while we were there. Everything hailed flat and even some years were bad for gophers.

We also experienced some bad blizzards in the winter. There was one blizzard in December 1964 which everyone there will remember for a long time, the temperature dropped to 30 below zero and a howling north wind blowing for almost three days. We were fortunate in not losing any cattle. Ernest rode down to the other place we had, twice a day to make sure they would stay at the shed we had for them.

Our house got so cold we were forced to stay in our living room with a coal heater going full blast. We slept and also ate our meals in the living room. After the storm was over, there were a lot of dead cattle found in deep snow drifts. These cattle had wandered off in the storm and got held up at fence corners and along road fences and then froze to death. There are not too many trees in this area for shelter for cattle except the few that people have planted in their yards. There were other cattle that drifted right down the highway from Sheer to Cessford which is a long way, about fifty miles, and these survived. It was a hard country in the winter time.

Ernest and I and our children moved to the Winfield area on April 13, 1965. This place was originally the Emil Anderson Homestead.

We moved up here to E 1/2 14 - 46 - 3 - 5. We sold the farm at Rose Lynn. Calvin lived here three years. Here he married Donna Kryger on November 29, 1962 and they now live at Sundre and he works out on a horse ranch, at Yoo-Hoo-Tinda Ranch.

When we first came here it seemed so different from the prairie. It took us quite a while to get used to it. It seemed there was no end to the trees, just trees everywhere and lots of green grass. The first summer we were here it rained and rained. After we were here a year or two, we started to clear some land of all those thriving trees and also bought more land, originally homesteaded by Art Ellingson.

There is lots of work in a country like this. We brought some of our cattle up here from the prairie so now we are still raising cattle. At present we are crossing Charolais cattle with our Herefords. This seems to be turning out quite well.

Our three children, Sharon, Wendy and Wayne are going to the Winfield School which is five miles away. They get on the school bus which is driven by Roy and Molly Hawkins. This is much different to our way of going to school when we were children.

The whole community has been very busy with curling, dances and meetings, card parties and also things going on at the school all winter.

The whole community has been busy trying to raise money for a community hall for the last two or three years. It is now being built in Winfield. It should be completed by the summer of 1972.

Canada is a beautiful, huge country and full of lots of opportunities for those who want to work.

EVALENA HAYNES JANKE

On the morning of Feb. 2, 1932 at about 2 A.M., the little shack my folks lived in had burned down. We barely managed to save all the family members, with nothing to wear but our night clothes and one blanket to wrap my baby sister in. She was only five and had a heart condition. We hooked up the team of horses and drove five miles through 30 degrees below

weather as far as the Hahn Walsh place. They welcomed us with open arms and Mrs. Walsh said "Now I can pay you back for taking us in when our home burned at Didsbury." Although there were few means of spreading news in those days, as only a few families had radios, in a short time, people began doing what they could to help. Times were hard then, but things began arriving so that the family could have clothes to wear and many opened their homes to take in one or two of the family. My mother (Mrs. Haynes) stayed with Mr. and Mrs. Eric Johnson for several days until her feet, which were badly frozen, had partially healed and Dad was able to get an empty bachelor cabin for us to live in, while they started to build a new log house. My younger sister Gladys stayed with Mr. and Mrs. Lou Hendrigan and I stayed with Mrs. Ernie Ayres while her husband was away. That spring I married Ed Janke and Mom and Dad went back to Didsbury to plant the grain, then Dad and Ike returned to Poplar Valley to continue clearing land and build on their house. In the fall they went back to Didsbury and removed the harvest and in late February came back to Poplar Valley with the whole family. For two years they rented the Maddox place and here Mom gave birth to my youngest brother, Bud. They then moved into the house that Dad built on the homestead.

I found the life on a bush homestead quite a change from going to a large high school in the city and I was very lonely at times but I adjusted to it. Like everyone else, we had to carry water for all domestic purposes, and heat it on the cook stove for washing clothes and other uses. Everyone seemed anxious to help each other, being willing to share recipes, from making soap to baking bread or smoking fish, even how best to dry blueberries to use instead of raisins during the winter months.

Poplar Valley school was built of logs and this was done by volunteer labour. Ed Janke did quite a bit of the axe work, such as sawing logs. All the trees had to be cut without the aid of chain saws as are used today. Everyone worked at it including the bachelors. The school was opened by a New Years Eve dance on December 31, 1931. One instance of co-operation by all was that several men helped load Mr. Smith's piano onto a stone boat and hauled it to the school where it was used to provide music. Until the Poplar Valley school burned down, it was used as a community centre as well as a school house. People would gather for a social evening and for an hour or so everyone would do some little thing to entertain, such as reciting poetry, playing an instrument, step dancing or singing either in groups or solo. Then lunch would be served which was brought by everyone. The rest of the night would be spent in dancing or card games. Each family took a turn at being host and their responsibility was to provide coffee and cream and arrange to have gas lamps for light, also to leave the school clean. After the school burned, Ernie Ayers house was used as a school till the new one could be built. The Ayers had moved away in the spring of 1932. It was their house that was used for the double funeral of my dad, John Edward Haynes and our third son, three month old Ormand Allan Janke. They were laid side by side in Ed's and my family plot. The Poplar Valley cemetery had been newly cleared and fenced and had not been completely laid out when they passed away, Dad on March 17, 1937 and Ormond two days later. They were the first two laid to rest in that cemetery. I think it might also show how people were true friends despite religion or creed in those days. I remember two of Dad's pall bearers were Catholic and Ormond was carried by all the little neighbor boys. As it was in the hungry thirties, money was scarce. Ormond's casket was built by the local carpenter at the cost of the lumber that he used. We then covered it with pink broadcloth and lined it with a piece of white satin that someone had.

In 1942 Martha and Gus Janke moved to Cloverdale, after selling their farm to Mr. Art Cartier. The following year Ed's parents also moved, to Surrey B.C. followed the next year by Dave Janke.

Our second son Billy seemed to get pneumonia every spring and fall so we decided a warmer climate might help his health, so in the spring of 1945 we sold everything and moved to Newton B.C. We next moved to Port Coquitlam where Ed received a back injury which led to his death by cancer in 1960. Billy passed away in February 1954, three days before his nineteenth birthday, they were both laid to rest in Haney cemetery. Mr. and Mrs. Gotfried Janke are both laid to rest in the Surry Centre cemetery. Mrs. Haynes passed away a few months after Billy and is laid beside Dad and Ormond. My brother Ike, Gladys and Bud all live at Red Deer, Alta, Gwen lives in Edmonton, so we are scattered far and wide as are my children. My oldest boy is logging north of Pitt lake with his three sons. Shirley lives in Edmonton with her husband and three girls, and Irene lives in Langley with her family of three boys. My two oldest girls married two brothers, my youngest daughter, Maureen is a hotel cook in Prince Rupert.

I remarried in 1961 and moved from the coast to the fruit growing country in the interior of B.C. where we have an acre and are semi retired. We only grow a garden and a few fruit trees for our own use. Dave Janke now lives at Haney B.C. and Gus Janke at Chase B.C. Fred

Brawn who also sold his land to the Cartiers died several years ago near Fernie B.C. He was the neighbor who discovered that Jesse James had died in his sleep. Jesse James had pre-empted two quarters of land. He was an American originally from Missouri and was a great reader. He dearly loved to talk to anyone who would listen. He always drove a team of mules regularly once a week to Winfield for supplies. Fred Brawn upon passing his place noted how quiet everything was and that the mules were not in the pasture, so upon finding them still in the barn in a half starved condition, they'd had no water or food for nearly a week, got the police and they broke into the house and found him. Apparently he had died of a heart attack in his sleep.

Written by Mrs. Evalena Quast, formerly
Haynes 1971.

Evalena Haynes married Ed Janke (widowed) now Mrs. John Quast.

6 children, 3 boys (2 deceased) John. 3 girls - Shirley, Irene, Maureen.

Ike Haynes married Norma Pocha

3 girls - Doreen, Lorna, Ann.

Gladys Haynes married Tom W. Clay

1 girl - Marion.

Gwen Haynes married Ross Andrews

3 boys - Pat, Billy, Micky

(Bud) Harry Haynes married Dot Nowasad, Meadow Lake, Sask.

2 girls - Linda, Rae.

FRANK HEIGHINGTON FAMILY

This story begins from my Grandfather's farm at Bittern Lake on November 11, 1918.

Frank Heighington and his wife Phoebe and their children Con aged 3½, and Phyllis 2 years, loaded their belongings on a hayrack and headed west. We arrived in Wetaskiwin in the afternoon, the flags were flying and the people were milling about the streets, it was Armistice Day, the war was over. We left Wetaskiwin early the next morning and arrived at Pigeon Lake that evening a good distance for a team of horses. We camped on the shore of what is now known as Ma-Me-O Beach. It was a beautiful place then, big spruce trees, white sand and clear water.

Leaving there the next morning we travelled west along the north side of Battle Lake until we arrived at J.P. Nowells store at Yeoford. Mr. Nowells had a nice place there and I can always remember the flowing springs there, he had one piped to his house and one piped to the trough by the barn. The next morning we set out on what was called the North Trail, we crossed numerous creeks and travelled over several miles of corduroy road. There was beautiful stands of pine and spruce as far as the eye could see. We arrived at the North shore of Buck Lake in late afternoon. We had two tents with stoves in, one which was used for cooking and living in, the other was for sleeping. We spent the winter of 1918 - 1919 in tents. The next spring my Dad with help from people across the lake built a log cabin and barn. Buck Lake was a beautiful place in those days with spruce and pine as far as you could see in any direction. Some of the spruce was over thirty inches at the butt. There was very little underbush, game such as moose, deer, and bear were plentiful and also many predatory animals. The lake was full of fish, and the whitefish from eight to twelve pounds were often caught in my father's net. The partridge and prairie chicken were too numerous to count and there was an abundance of wild strawberries, raspberries and blueberries.

My parents were so pleased with the beautiful surroundings and the bounties of nature, that my father filed on the S.W. ¼ of section 36 township, 46 range 6 west of 5, it was fronted on the lake.

The first thing my father did was to cut and sharpen enough poles and rails to put a three rail fence around the quarter, driving every post by hand. As time passed he brought in sheep, cattle, horses, hogs, and chickens, we ended up with 70 head of sheep, 18 cows and one bull, 8 head of horses and 6 hogs. The only neighbors we had were a family names Hohendorff. They had six children and lived on the quarter north of us. There were also a lot of Indian people there because they hunted in that area and around Buck Mountain. I can remember the Indians with their hair in long braids, and dressed in moccasins and buckskins. Very few could speak English but they were friendly and honest in those days.

In the fall of 1920 my father decided to start a sawmill, he returned to Bittern Lake where his brother Herbert Heighington resided, they acquired a 25 - 75 Case steamer and the mill machinery and started for Buck Lake. Along the way they met Jack Sowles and hired him to drive the water wagon. It took a month (November) to steam that distance.

In the spring of 1921 they set the mill up on the lake shore and started sawing. George Dewitt arrived in the country at that time and he ran the engine for my father.

Rough lumber sold for about \$10.00 per M. at the mill.

George Dewitt and Jack Sowles homesteaded off the north east end of the lake and were friends and neighbors over the years. We were well established with farming and a small mill but as there were no schools, churches or roads on that side of the lake and I was coming eight years of age, my mother decided we had to go to school. We left Buck Lake July 1922 and returned to Bittern Lake and then to Edmonton where my father went into business and where he joined my family and has resided ever since.

My uncle Herbert operated the mill for another year and then sold to Art Burrows. Herbert with his family then moved to Edmonton where he joined my father in business.

When I think back I remember some of those pioneers and their names, but I am not sure of the spelling. There was Mr. Calhoun and his family Joe and Bessie, Haggkvist, Pochas, Matusiks, Sabins, Siegels, J. Parker, Wilsons, Bowen (who was the fish warden), and I believe some of the policemen of that era were Ward, Shants and Appleton. My father told me there were only fourteen voters in the area at that time.

I still own the quarter at the lake and I spend all my spare time out there and relive many happy and nostalgic memories.

Con Heighington

H. HELLERVIK

In September 1933, Mr. and Mrs. H. Hellervik and little Sylvia moved into the Winfield district. Harald Hellervik came over to Canada from Norway in the spring of 1952. He worked around on farms in southern Alberta and on a ranch at Pincher Creek. In the winter, he attended Alberta College in Edmonton. He bought a quarter and homesteaded in the dry belt between Jenner and Empress.

In the spring of 1930, his fiancée, Inger, came over from Norway and they were married in Medicine Hat. After trying to farm where they were being dried out and the land was blowing away, they thought of moving to a better place. They read about land being opened up for homesteading in the Winfield area.

In May 1933, Harald took the team and buggy and started out for Winfield to look over the land. Mr. Walsh took him around and he decided on the S.W. 34 - 46 - 5 - 5. He then drove up to Edmonton to file on the land. He was away for three weeks and had made a round trip of seven hundred miles.

The family moved to Winfield in September and stopped at Walsh's in Poplar Valley until they got their effects moved from the station. (They got a railroad car to take their effects from Buffalo to Winfield.) It was five miles to Ernie Brick's place from Poplar Valley, where they were to stay until a house was built on the homestead. It took five hours to drive that distance as they had to stop and unload for every deep mudhole and then drive back to pick up the rest of the load. It was a very tiresome trip and Mrs. Hellervik thought they must be fifty miles from the nearest neighbor.

Mrs. Hellervik's brother, Ben Nelson, came west from Toronto in the fall of 1932 to come with them, and a very good thing it was, as he was a first class carpenter.

During the winter of 1933 and 1934, the men took out logs and had them hewed. In June 1934, the one and one-half story house was completed. A very nice house it was.

The winter of 1934 and 1935 was a very cold one with lots of snow. The sixth of April that spring, a neighbor, S. Wetham, drove to Wetaskiwin with a team and sleigh to trade rails for flour. It was below zero and good sleighing both going and coming.

On June 26, Kenneth Hellervik was born. He was the first baby born in the neighborhood so a lot of excitement was created. While Ben drove to Pender for the nurse and Mr. Hellervik went for help, leaving the mother alone, the baby was born. Since it was dark and rainy with big mud puddles everywhere, the nurse didn't arrive before the next forenoon. During the night, however, Mrs. S. Wetham and Mrs. M. Guard had come over and taken care of everything. Neighbors were very helpful and kind. That was one of the few blessings in those early days.

Entertainment consisted of neighbors gathering together and visiting. There were now eight children in the neighborhood so the birthday parties were the highlights. There was hardly any money but the mothers somehow managed to make a birthday cake and some homemade candy. Everyone was happy.

The pioneer women were the backbone of the country. It is a hard life homesteading,

whether in the 1880's, 1930's or 1950's but the "dirty thirties" so far, haven't been beaten. The hardest hit was the homesteaders in the bush country.

There were no roads and it took a whole day to drive seven miles to the nearest store and post office. It was a back breaking trip down with mudholes and up stumps.

In 1937, the Spruce Hill school district was formed with Mr. Hellervik as chairman and Mrs. Elsie Wetham as secretary.

The Wethams, Traback boys, H. Hellervik and Ben Nelson took out logs, got them hewed and built the school. Mr. R. Shute gave two acres of land to the school. Since he was a bricklayer by trade, he built the chimney. Mr. Wetham senior gave tarpaper for the roof and nails. He was an old age pensioner and received twenty dollars a month. Mr. Shute and Mr. Hunt were also on the pension. They were the capitalists of the neighborhood. Nobody saw that much money during the years. Mrs. Elsie Wetham went to the two lumbermills operating in the district and got some rough lumber for the roof. From the government grant, the district got one hundred and fifty dollars for the windows and the door and some planed lumber for the floor.

Ben Nelson, foreman for the building of the school, spent three whole months working on it. The school inspector, Mr. Scofield was very much pleased with the fine work done.

When the school was finished, some women got together and bought curtains for the windows, making the schoolhouse a pleasanter place. Since the money from the government didn't cover too much, the first blackboards were made out of tarpaper. The inspector brought some used desks and maps.

The first teacher, Mrs. Elsie Smith of Millet, stayed until Christmas. She was a very good teacher and by Christmas, some of the children could read fluently. Other teachers included Mrs. Rogers, Mr. Uneat, Miss Chase, Miss Duncan, Miss Holtsbom, Miss Phelps, and Miss Sheridan. The last teacher was Mr. T. Sheridan from Alder Flats.

During the war years, it was hard to get a teacher. Most of the teachers were students that stayed for a couple of months during the summer. In the meantime, it was up to the mothers to teach their children at home. There were no churches or Sunday schools so that too did fall on the mothers to teach (Bible history and Catechism).

During the war years, the Wetham families moved out, so the Hellerviks were the ones who looked after the school, did the cleaning up, supplied the wood and boarded the teachers. Mr. Hellervik was chairman and Mrs. Hellervik was secretary until the children were bussed into Winfield in 1955.

The hardships in the early days consisted of no roads, just bush trails, and of course, very little money. Driving into Winfield was a trial. After a storm, there were lots of trees laying across trails. One neighbor driving into town after a storm had to cut twenty trees before he could get by, and he had just received his tax notice that day. The taxes were raised. (After thirty-eight years, there are still a couple of connecting roads that are impassible in the rainy season and the early spring.)

The first of July in 1944, the teacher and children were driving into town for the celebration. The horses got into a hole in a creek until just part of their backs and heads were showing. It was lucky they didn't miss their footing. The children jumped on the buggy seat and everyone screamed. Their good clothing was in a box and it started floating away. Egg crates also started to float out of the buggy.

After the mills started operating, there was work for the men but the pay was very poor. To begin with, they got seventy-five cents a day plus board for ten hour days. The log shacks they were sleeping in had big cracks between the logs. Some wild hay was thrown on the bunks which were made of rough lumber and the men supplied their own blankets. A barrel heater in the middle of the bunkhouse supplied the heat. Those closest to the stove were "cooking" and those further away were "freezing". As a result, there was much sickness and colds among the men. Some men went around with gunny sacks strapped around their feet. They didn't have anything better. It wasn't until the German war prisoners were brought out that there were decent bunkhouses built with spring mattresses inside. The men then started to demand something better, and things slowly improved.

There were several bushfires in the early spring if it was dry. Some said the homesteaders started them so they could get some work fighting fire. The pay was ten cents an hour and with this you got grub which consisted of bread, sardines and coffee.

In the fall the men went out to work in the harvest and the cattle went on the rampage. There were poor fences so it was easy for them to get out. One neighbor had to trail the cattle for miles, leaving two small children alone at home. That was the last straw. They moved out.

Our first strike of luck was when we got a flowing well with good sweet water. It was a pretty pleasant, quiet neighborhood with good neighbors. The only excitement was caused by the bush fires which came too close for comfort.

In 1946, a baby girl was added to the family and in 1948, a boy. They were Ingrid and Brian. They went to school in Winfield until they finished Grade twelve.

Sylvia completed grade nine and then went to the Olds School of Agriculture for a winter.

Kenneth spent a winter at the Agricultural College at Vermillion. He then spent five years in the navy and travelled all over South America, Asia, Australia, and New Zealand. He was married in 1965 to Doreen Shave for Wenham Valley. They now have two children; Bernt Kenneth, born March 18, 1968 and Melinda Laura born February 11, 1971.

Sylvia was married July 4, 1950 to Lawson Boyd of Bowden. They had five children. The family now lives at Thorhild.

Ingrid was married the 28 of March in 1968 to Royle Harris of Edmonton. He works for C.B.C. and Ingrid has been working at C.F.R.N. since 1963 when she graduated from high school.

Brian is an auto mechanic and works at Grande Prairie.

Mr. and Mrs. Hellervik quit farming in 1965, bought a trailer and are living on the quarter S.E. 27 - 46 - 5 - 5. They are both over seventy.

DAVE HEMPSTOCK

In the spring of 1934, David Hempstock and son David jumped a freight train from Hamilton, Ontario and headed west. David's brother, Jack, had written glowing accounts of prosperity around the Battle Lake area. As Dave was out of work, he decided to try his luck out west.

He arrived at Jack's in the middle of May and at once started to work for Snells in the logging camp.



Dave Hemstock family, 1946. L. to R. are: Bob, Dave Jr. (with dog), Doug, Dave Sr., Bill, Minnie (Mother), George, Gert, Betty, Edith, Ella.

On July 13th, Minnie and the other eight children arrived in Wetaskiwin with their few possessions they had brought with them.

They lived with Jack and Lee until they built themselves a log house on Jack's property.

The hardships were many after living in a big city with modern conveniences. When school started in September, Ella got the janitor job. She soon found out she would earn her \$3.00 per month. What with walking a mile to school and having to build the fire so the other children could warm and thaw out their lunches. She also had to keep the school clean and have a supply of drinking water on hand that she packed from the old Nadeau place down the hill.

The following year they bought N.E. 25 - 46 - 2 - 5, a half mile north from Jacks. There they built a large log house to accommodate the growing family. In spite of the hardships, the family grew and one by one left home. Dave, Bill and George all joined the Army when war broke out and not to be left out, Dave Sr. also joined. Later Gertrude also joined the Air Force.

Dave married an English girl, May Tizard, and brought her to Canada. They now live in Edmonton and have three sons, two of whom are married at this time.

Bill also married an English girl, Ruby Hancock. They are now living at White Rock, B.C. They have four children. Betty, the eldest, is married and lives in the U.S.A.

George married an English girl, Dessie Barrow, and they have eleven children. They are living in Edmonton.

Ella married Wilber Kimmy. They had four children, three of whom are married. Ella and Wilber still live at Battle Lake.

Gert is married to Earl Durant and they have five children and live at Kamloops, B.C.

Betty married Vic Gerard and has six children and lives in Edmonton.

Edith married Leonard Arnold. They lived in the Battle Lake area for a few years

and then moved to Wetaskiwin. They had five children.

Leonara died in April of 1965.

Bob married Eva Bonds and had three children and now lives at Fruitvale, B.C.

Douglas married Norma King and had six children and now live at Grey Creek, B.C.

Minnie passed away April 1964 and Dave moved to Wetaskiwin in 1969 and lives with his daughter, Edith.

JACK HEMPSTOCK

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Hempstock homesteaded in the Battle Lake area in 1923 on the N.E. 24 - 46 - 2 - 5. With them came Dorothy and Mickey Ayres. Dorothy was the daughter of Mrs. Jack Hempstock from a former marriage. Jack and Mickey worked in the sawmill at Snell's camp where Dot and Lu did some of the cooking. Dorothy and Mickey soon grew tired of the hardships and moved to Edmonton. They had two children.

Jack joined the Army in 1941 but never left Canada on account of lung trouble.

After getting out of the Army, they retired to Edmonton. Lu passed away in 1950 and Jack passed away in 1971.

HENDERSON

Gordon Henderson was born at Saltcoats, Sask. (S.E. of Yorkton). He was raised north of Prince Albert on a farm. My parents, Hugh & Mary Henderson, also had three girls - Fern, older than me; Eileen and Coral younger. On leaving home, my first employment was at Churchhill, Man. as a millright in an elevator for 6 years. I worked for Zeiner, west of Breton, the winter of 1948 - 49 and then back to Churchhill. In 1952, I went to Kamloops and went logging in a camp. Because of the impossibility to get a cat driver, I decided to go from Churchhill back down to Kamloops and drive my cat myself. When I could no longer get work for it, I decided to take a mechanic job in a shop. In 1959 I bought N $\frac{1}{2}$ 35 - 46 - 2 - W5 and went farming. Mervin Gordon, a nephew just out of school, looked after pigs for me and stayed on the farm. I came back periodically in the summer and broke land and did the extra jobs around the farm. I came out to stay in 1964 in the fall. My sister Eileen Stickney and her two girls Laverne and Brenda stayed with our sister Fern (Mrs. George Ambrose, who also had a farm here after they left the service station at Glen Park) from the fall of 1963 until they moved to my farm with Mervin in the spring in 1964. They stayed until the spring of 1966. They then moved to Wetaskiwin where Eileen worked in Green Acres nursing home for some time. She now lives in Vancouver. Ambrose's went to Glen Park in 1962, after they acquired the farm, Fern and their only son Grant came to the farm here.

George stayed at Glen Park until the fall of 1965. On April 17, 1970, Delia Bachand Smith and I were married. Her daughter Janice is finishing her grade 12 in Edmonton. We still have pigs, as well as boats in the summer and camp grounds. We are living where Albert and Alma Nadeau had a boat business before us.

LOU HENDRIGAN

The year was 1922 and people were moving west in the thousands. One of these men was Lou Hendrigan. He had heard of a place called Alberta and decided long before he ever saw it that it would be his home. Equipped with a saddle horse and his two hands he filed for his claim on N.W. 9 - 46 - 4 - 5. But farming cost money even in those days, and as settlers were required to spend only six months of the year on the homestead, Lou spent the winter months in the lumber camps of B.C. Every spring he came back with more ideas and plans for the home quarter.

The area around Lou's quarter was still quite unpopulated, but the area to the east was beginning to fill up. In 1926 Lou went to a dance in the Seattle School District. There he met a dark haired smiling teacher named Muriel Pearson. Two years later, Lou and Muriel were married in December 1928. There was no turning back as the two drove through the trees to their new home and the future. The house which Lou took his young bride to had been built by himself. A few years before he had seen a picture of a home on the back of a catalogue. From that he began to build the house, and as children and the need arose, extra space was made into rooms.

Though the hours were long and the work never-ending, Lou and Muriel usually took Sundays off to ride around the country and visit with the other homesteaders. These visits usually meant long rides through tall virgin timber over flowing creeks, and around willow swamps. When they first came into the area, there was all kinds of wild life, most of the animals paying only a passing glance at the pair as they rode by. Somehow with all the work and responsibility of caring for six children - Ann, Robert, Terry, Pat, Dennis and Jessie - and a husband, Muriel found time to create a flower garden which blossomed and bloomed gloriously as each flower

tried to outdo itself in colour. Lou, too, was busy in any spare time he had, working to find which types of plants would grow in the soil of the surrounding area. For six years he ran a Dominion Illustration Station on the farm. In 1937 he won third place in the Field Class at the Chicago International Stock and Grain Show. Both Lou and Muriel have been active in community affairs. Muriel has been President of the Conroy Club, on the Poplar Valley School Board and the first President of the Winfield Legion Auxiliary. Lou has been chairman of the Advisory Committee of the U. F. A. Co-op, Vice-President of the Alberta Seed Growers assoc., Director of the Northern Seed Sales, on the Blindman Livestock Co-op as well as many other local community service committees.

Through the years Lou and Muriel have seen many changes --from a virgin wilderness without roads to a populated community with paved highways. From a time when wild creatures came to the door of the first cabin for food to a time when there are few wild animals at all. They have seen the lumber mills come and go, taking almost all of the timber crops.

The first nurse in the Poplar Valley - Pendryl district was Miss Kate Brighty, who came in 1922. Her cottage was built by donations of time and talent of the settlers of the surrounding area. She had been sent in to care for the people of all the surrounding area. Sometimes this meant a two or three day horseback ride to get to the people in need of medical help.

Around 1931, the settlers felt need for a school. Once again everybody turned out to help. The Government helped by way of a two hundred dollar grant. Mr. Ernie Aires donated the logs which were hewn by Lou Hendrigan and Sandy Turnbull. The name of Poplar Valley was suggested by Elizebeth Dewar, her husband George Dewar made all the desks by hand. Luckily insurance was taken out on the new building, as five years later the school burned completely. The community turned out and once more the country had a school for its children.

The first school teacher remembered was Deveda Drader. The earliest settler in this district was big Bill Steer.

Jessie Hendrigan

J.D. HENSLEY

Mr. and Mrs. Hensley homesteaded the N.E. $\frac{1}{4}$ 4 - 46 - 6 - 5 now owned by Mr. Wilbur Brubaker. They and their two daughters, Gladys and Pearl came to the district in 1926 from Orniols Alberta.

The idea of cheap land attracted them. They came as far as Pete Bjurs with a 1917 Dodge car, the remainder of the trip made by team and wagon. The wagon was mired down many times, horses were unhooked and a chain hooked to end of wagon tongue to pull it out. Pearl remembers it being so wet that the threshing machine was put on floats. Also that they returned to the prairie during harvest to obtain enough funds to get through the next winter. She also thought that morals were better in those far off days. Nice girls didn't drink or smoke.

Mrs. Hensley passed away in 1961. Mr. Hensley at the age of 87 is living with his daughter Gladys (Mrs. L.J. Perkins) in Edmonton.

Some early neighbors were the Wm. Siegels, O. Larson, Charlie Parkers, Ned MacKay and Krystas. Two teachers who taught at Buck Lake school were Miss M. Forquor and Mrs. Tarney.

written in 1971

GEORGE HERMAN

George Herman came to Winfield on February 2, 1931 in the hope of settling on a farm where the wind didn't blow, coming from the Didsbury country which was prairie and the wind blew most of the time.

He homesteaded the N.E. $\frac{1}{4}$ 26 - 46 - 5 - 5. There was plenty of bush, some of which had to be cleared and buildings put up. The big problem was to locate water for a well, until a good drilled well was put in later.

During the summer of 1931, George's mother and dad, Mr. and Mrs. H. Walsh and family also came. Their family are Wilbert, Ed, Bob, Mae, Norman and Arnold who are all married except Norman who lives with his mother.

They moved from Didsbury travelling with two wagons, six horses, six cows and one bull, also other livestock and machinery.

George farmed his homestead for forty years with the exception of one summer when he farmed at Leduc where he met Marie. They were married in 1945. They have two daughters. Donna who is married to Norman Jackson and live at Breton. They have three children and Margaret, now Mrs. Gordon Pinyon, and their family are one boy and two girls.

Farming conditions were very different from these days. George brought the first John Deere tractor into the Spruce Hill country but also did much of his farming with horses.

There were many entertainments, dances, picnics, ball games, box and pie social, school concerts, etc. which were very enjoyable. People travelled by team and wagon or sleigh and later by the Model T. Ford.

The roads were often treacherous with mud holes like sinkers. Now we have good gravelled roads.

The smokey oil lamps have been replaced by electricity and what a blessing the telephone is! There was always the worry about bush fires. If it didn't burn in the fall it most surely burned in the spring.

There was no doctor closer than Wetaskiwin but we had our district nurse, Miss Conroy, who was always there to help when needed. The Pendryl Club honored her by naming their club for her.

George met with a tragic accident on September 27th, 1971 and after six weeks of being in hospital, died on November 10th.

He leaves his wife Marie, two daughters, Donna and Margaret and six grandchildren, his mother, Mrs. M. Walsh, one sister and five brothers.

LAURIE HIGGINS

Laurie (Red) Higgins came out to Yeoford from England. One day, riding home he came upon and surprised a young coyote pup and was able to throw his jacket over the animal. After much scrambling, he managed to get it up on his horse with him and took it home thinking it would make a good pet. He turned it loose in his cabin when he went to bed and as usual, he put his pants on the bed. When he woke in the morning, low and behold, no pants, nothing left but the buttons and one scared coyote pup.

Later he went back to England only to return to Canada. He ventured into many businesses as well as having made several trips back to England. At one time he opened the Army Surplus Store in Wetaskiwin between 50th Avenue and 51st Avenue on the west side of 51st Street. He was also in real estate in Camrose and Edmonton. Now he has an English Antique Shop in Edmonton.

His wife Edna, is an English girl. They have one daughter, Margaret, who is married also. All their antiques for the shop are imported from England after careful selection by Red personally on his many trips to England. They still find time for their friends in spite of their busy schedule.

Red homesteaded S.W. 30-46-2-5, just east of Eric Norlin's. About one mile, as the crow flies, south of Yeoford Store's old site. He later sold this to J.P. Nowell who in turn sold the west half of S.W. 1/4 of 30 - 46 - 2 - 5, to Eric Norlin.

ED HINTON

Ed came to the Winfield area in 1927. He worked in the lumber mills and stayed with Fred Krogh's family and was sometimes called Paul Bunyon. He filed on a homestead in 1930 but didn't prove up on it. At one time he managed the Blind Man Valley Livestock yards at Winfield. He also bought the Feed Store formerly owned by Mr. Ginther and sold North West Products - sold out two years later at a big loss.

He now lives in retirement in Edmonton. His wife Beulah is still teaching school.

Reminiscing, he remembers that Engbloms had a tie camp south-east of Winfield on Weaver land in 1925. Jack Third was one of the original teachers in Winfield. Mr. Clark was the first C.P.R. station master and Mr. Lang followed. Mr. Mickleberry and sons had a small box factory and later he had the dray service. Wayne did blacksmithing and Hollis ran the picture shows. Mr. and Mrs. Samuel came about the same time as Bendicks who were the first hotel owners in 1932. Mrs. Samuel was a nurse and delivered many babies in the district and certainly saved one mother-to-be's life. Bill Craig took over the barber shop from Roy Gibbons. Mr. Samuel looked after the rooming house and tended bar for Mr. Bendicks. Ben Ward was the next barber and also looked after cream for Bluffton Creamery that was to be shipped by C. P. R.

Mrs. K. Greff and two sons, Ray and Ken, arrived here and she became book keeper for Etter-McDougals Lumber Co. Ray has become well known with his singing and song writing. They moved from Winfield to Calgary. Mr. Grey was bookkeeper and accountant for Carroll Bros. Louis Sorenson spent many years here at lumber piling. Gunner Carlson graded lumber. Mel Johnson and family came from Edgerton to operate the rooming house and Mel was road maintainer for many years. Frank Ryall was a truck driver hauling lumber and was overseas during World War Two. Jack Thalheimer was a blacksmith. Nick

Ludsko worked for Carroll Bros. Glen Spellin also. Mr. Yemen Sr. did blacksmithing. Mr. and Mrs. Arnald Homan and family were also in Winfield during those early years. He was a foreman for Carroll Bros.

ALFRED HOCH

Alfred Hoch was born October 15, 1934 in Germany and came to Canada with his mother (Mrs. Helen Hoch) in August 1951 when he was 16 years of age. They stayed with relatives at Falun for the winter and then he went to work on a farm. After a few months, he went to work for Sorenson and Sons in Wetaskiwin apprenticing as a plasterer and learned the trade. Mrs. Hoch later married "Scotty" Eli Meir.

Eric Boden and Gertrude Bergstrom were both born in Sweden but met in Canada and were married on November 30, 1930 in Edmonton. Of this union, one daughter Shirley Ann was born on January 7, 1938. She was raised at Crystal Springs on the south side of Pigeon Lake. She took her schooling at Lakedell school, then took a business course in Edmonton and worked in Edmonton and then Wetaskiwin.

Alfred and Shirley were married on September 6, 1958 and made their home in Wetaskiwin. Karen was born October 17, 1959. In 1960, they bought N.E. 2 - 47 - 3 - W5 from Don Belsham, 1 mile north of Yeoford Store. During the summer, their weekends were spent building a barn and started their house. During this time they lived in the "little red house" built by Wes Mason. Lorne was born June 18, 1963. They moved from Wetaskiwin on Nov. 24, 1964. They also purchased S.E. 11 - 47 - 3 - W5 which was formerly occupied by Jimmy Hauser and family. Mrs. Sylvia Hauser's father Lenard Norstrom stayed there a few years until he suffered a stroke and is now in the Lutheran Home in Wetaskiwin. Karen and Lorne ride Grover's School bus to Winfield where they attend school. Karen is also in Winfield First Guides.



Horticulture Field Day, August 1942 on Art Jones farm.

Back row: Melvin and Grace Jones, Larry Jones (in the arms of Mrs. Hazel Jones), Mrs. Mabel Burris, Mrs. Bernie Quam, Alice Abbott, unknown peeking, Lou Hendrigan, two judges - one was P.H. Hargrave.

Front row: Elsie Quam, Mrs. Stella Sabin, Mrs. Groulx.



Audrey holding Larry in their father's (Art Jones) fruit garden, 1945.

The Assistant Supervisor of Horticultural Experiment Station at Brooks held a Field Day at Art Jones' farm. He had all the types of fruit and several varieties. They shipped raspberries out by the case every year. They had lovely apples on their trees.

GEORGE HUEGLE

George came to Canada in 1925 from Offenbach, Germany. He worked for a time in Ontario. In 1928, he came to Alberta and took up homestead # S.E. 32 - 45 - 5 W5 in the Pendryl district. Mrs. Lusie Huegel and two sons, Ellis and Louis, arrived from Offenbach to join her husband. Another son, Hans, was born at Pendryl on June 20, 1933 with our district nurse, Miss Conroy, and Mrs. Delong in attendance. On January 23, 1943, Ryland was born with the same two nurses taking care of her. Times were hard and George worked at farm labor for farmers around the district.

Ellis served 3 years in the Canadian Army and passed away in Oct. 1952. Louis was in the Canadian Army too.

The latter part of Oct. 1952, saw Mr. and Mrs. Huegle and youngest son, Ryland,

moved to Nanaimo, B.C. where George worked as carpenter help until his death in 1958.
Mrs. Huegle now lives in Calgary.



George Huegle and son Ellis with team of oxen. They were raised and trained from calves of the milk cows when there were no horses available - about 1930.

HENRY HUDSON

Henry Hudson came from Idaho in 1908. He left Spokane by train, got off at Millet and walked knee-deep in water from Bonnie Glen carrying his little cook stove on his back, approximately twenty-five miles to where Zeiner's Park is today. There he spent his time and stayed with Adolf Armbusters. He settled on N.E. $\frac{1}{4}$ section 36 township 47 range 3 west of the 5th. Here he built a little log shack 10 X 12. His post office was Fisher Home with John Lee as post master. This was a seven mile walk each way and was also the closest store, but the main supply depot was Millet.



Henry Hudson, 1908. Fishing on Pigeon Lake.

Some of his early neighbors were Alf Armbuster, Tom Peters, Mrs. Humphrey, Chris Bowles, Mrs. Coopland, Ed Snell, and Charles Permer.

In the spring of 1909, he worked on a log drive down the Poplar Creek to Edmonton. That fall he worked on a big irrigation dam at Carsland. The next spring he trapped twenty-seven bears and got approximately \$10.00 each for them. He made six bob sleighs by hand with no nails and got \$20.00 each for them which was a lot of money in those days. But it was also a lot of work making those sleighs.

Mr. Hudson broke his land with oxen and a breaking plough, then later got horses. He also had six hens, a rooster, and one pig. He had a

dug well for water as did everyone else. For entertainment they had house parties and dances which were enjoyed by all. Mr. Hudson also helped work on the Fisher Home school.

In 1910 he worked in a lumber camp three miles from Buck Mountain with Mr. Bunney and Mr. Walters. Dave Reicker was foreman.

In 1914 he went to the prairie where he met Elsie Belcher. They were married on Nov. 11, 1914 in the Anglican Church at Dinton, Alberta.

In the winter of 1915, he nearly froze driving out from Leduc with his horses. The horses turned into Mr. Arp's place of their own accord as they visited there quite often. They had to help Mr. Hudson from his sleigh. He was so numb he couldn't talk.

He left the homestead in the fall of 1916 and stayed at Blackie. In 1917 he bought a quarter section of land off the Blackfoot Reservation south of Gleichen. In 1920 he traded his homestead for a 1917 Ford car and \$200.00

In 1924 he moved back to Idaho. By this time they had five children: Kenneth, Ernie and Clarence (who were twins), Elsie and Rosalind. The children started school there. In 1929 they moved to Galloway, B.C., then back to the Fern Creek district in Sept. of 1931. It was then that he bought the Griffin place N.W. $\frac{1}{4}$ section 30 township 47 range 2. Here the children went to the Fern Creek School. Some of the first teachers were Miss Siren, Miss Marr, Mildred Smith (Mrs. Jim McCallister), and Arthur Baker.

In his later years he resided in Warburg until his passing October of 1970.

D.W. (BILL) HUFF

Bill was born in Oregon and came to Canada in 1917. He married Elsie Pitt. We came from Shaughnessy with children Catherine, Willa, Howard and Clarence in 1933. We arrived on July 15th. Clarence was one and one half years old. After three weeks on the trail driving cattle, we bought from Ed Nadeau the N.E. 30 - 46 - 2 - 5. Because of the absence of promised hay fields, we moved into Mrs. Annie Young's home as she was with her mother, Mrs. Kortz-

man whose eye sight was poor due to cataracts causing twelve years of blindness. During this time, her husband fell in the well and was there one and a half days before Annie visited again. He was still alive then but died later of pneumonia and broken legs.



Henry Hudson and his first cabin, 1908,
near Pigeon Lake.



Henry Hudson and his barn, 1908,
near Pigeon Lake.

to sell out and go learn more of what's in the good book. After three years studying, I took day classes, Doris took night classes. In that way there was one home to babysit as we had two children then. This way we completed the course. After graduation we felt sympathetic toward the North American Indians in Northern Manitoba, 300 miles from railhead, there we started our mission station. There are many experiences one could relate but they are in the past. Now we live 2 miles south of the Schwab farm doing our bit to carry on the work at the Battle Lake Community Church.

Doris, children and I have been talking and wondering what we do to make this world a little better place to live in. With God's help, that is our aim. At present we have our family and two retarded boys. The Good Lord moved in Mysterious ways His wonders to perform. Who knows what is around the corner?

TOM HUNTER

In the spring of 1934, the Tom Hunter family moved to Wenham Valley. The children were nearly grown. Tom and George went back to Bentley. Roy and Gordon, the youngest, worked casual labor. They all four married girls from Bentley. Lily married John Reid and now make their home at Bentley. John married Ellen Snell and lived in this area. They now live at Breton, both children are married. They brought several horses here with them. However, most of them died the first summer.

Berries were picked to fill their sealers for winter. Usually picnics were made of these occasions.

THE HUNTERS OF BATTLE LAKE

In the fall of 1905, Kenneth Samuel Hunter came to the Battle Lake district from Bolton, Ontario. He came out on the harvest excursion, as so many did in the early days.

The cost was only ten dollars in those days. There were no cushions on the seats of the train, just wood slabs.

Mr. Hunter homesteaded on the S.W. $\frac{1}{4}$ Section 36 township 45 range 2 west of the fifth. He built a very neat two story house of logs, hewn outside and inside, and dove-tailed at the corners, an excellent log building. The house was built beside a lovely spring creek and two

In 1936 we moved to Snells and lived in a shack. In the summer we moved to Nelsons while we built our home where we are now, south of Ma-Me-O.

Catherine wed Roy Midtdal and they live at Battle Lake on the Del Ranch. Willa married Albert Dreichel and lives on an acreage in Bluffton. Howard married Emily Marr and lives in Wetaskiwin. He is top salesman for Denham Motors. Clarence married Esther Baumann and they live on the farm formerly owned by her father, John Bauman in the Yeoford district.

ED HUNT

We arrived in the area on July 7, 1964 on what was called the Schwab Quarter. My wife, three girls and one boy and myself had previously farmed at Innisfail where we were married in Jan. 1947. So Jan. of this year made 25 years of married life during which we had many mountain top experiences and many hair raisers as well. My greatest experience came in the summer of 49, while ranching at Innisfail. One day when I had nothing better to do while herding sheep, I took an old Bible along to read. I didn't have any idea what was inside of the covers. There on the hillside through God's word, He pointed out to me what a sinner I was and one could have cleansing through His precious Blood. There and then I made peace with God, the greatest decision I ever made, or could make in a lifetime. Talking it over with my Doris, we decided

feet of swift current flowed through it, the same in the summer as in winter. It never froze in the coldest of weather. I saw it again two years ago and it looked the same as ever.

Mrs. Kenneth Hunter (whole maiden name was Margaret Scott Speirs) and their ten year old son, Wilfred Roy, came west in the spring of 1907 to join Mr. Hunter. Mr. Hunter was a first class blacksmith and he had brought his tools with him from the east, so he built himself a blacksmith shop and was in business. Many a horse was shod by Mr. Hunter for Mr. Rickers men who were working out west in logging operations. He also shod horses for other men that were hauling out lumber. In the early days the road by Battle Lake was the only way out or into the west country. Mr. Ricker once worked on what is called the Ricker Ranch, it is now owned by Mr. Ben Fletcher of Breton. In the early days, Mr. Ricker used to bring the mail out from Wetaskiwin once a month. In later years when Brightview, Falun, and West-erose became post offices, the mail was brought out more often. The mail was brought out with horses and wagons in the summer. In the winter when the roads were bad, toboggans and sleighs were used to haul the mail. The mail came three days a week, it came one day and went back the next. The Woods brothers carried the mail for many years. A Mr. Cowan was an early mailman.



Ken and Maggie Hunter at their 60th wedding anniversary.

Mr. Hunter also worked on the river drive from Battle Lake to Ponoka, when they floated the logs down the river. Mr. Papineau had a sawmill on what is now known as the Fullerton place.

The Battle Lake church was built before the First World War. Before 1912, the Battle Lake Post Office was kept by Mr. and Mrs. Heacock. Then in 1912 the Hunter family moved from the homestead and took over the post office. Mr. Hunter built a blacksmith shop across the road from the Post Office and operated for fifteen years or more. He was also the Battle Lake Postmaster for thirty seven years, from 1912 to 1949. He received a medal from Ottawa for his long service. The old blacksmith shop was still standing when the farm was sold to Mr. John Archibald in 1970.

The Battle Lake church was built across the road from the Post Office. It was finished in 1912. Mr. and Mrs. Hunter were both strong supporters of this little church in the west. The children of the district went to school in the church before the Cree Valley school was built. Miss Abercrombie was the teacher at the time.

Roy Hunter married Enid Impey and they made their home with his folks. They had six children, three boys and three girls.

Grandma Hunter was one of the charter members of the Battle Lake Ladies club and was keenly interested in its activities up to her passing. Grandpa Hunter passed in June of 1958. Grandma Hunter went on the eleventh of March, 1968, just seven weeks short of her 92nd birthday. Grandma Hunter loved flowers and houseplants. Many long hours were spent with her plants which helped to beautify her home and life for so long.

Roy Hunter was very fond of hunting and fishing and many interesting stories he would tell - Of a narrow escape from an enraged wounded buck, or a close call from a bear he had inadvertently caught in a trap. During the fishing sea-

son you would find him out on the lake with his nets and his dog catching his share of the fish.

Roy and Enid lived almost forty years at Battle Lake. Their family all grew up there. The children went to Cree Valley school, until Lakedell school was built, by moving a number of country schools together and centralizing them into a larger unit. Their oldest daughter, Margaret, married Reg Boruck and had four children, three boys and one girl. Their oldest son is married and lives in the States with his wife and child. The second son was married on December 4, 1971 and will be making his home in Lacombe. Monty helps his Dad in the Auto Wrecking business that Reg has operated successfully in Lacombe these last few years. Their third boy, Ken, is out working on his own. Their daughter, Leslie, is at home and is attending



Grandpa Hunter churning butter.

school. Margaret and Reg also live in Lacombe, for a time after Reg got out of the army they farmed at Battle Lake. Then an unfortunate accident in a combine caused Reg to lose an arm that led him into a business venture that has proven a success.

Allan Hunter married Betty Boyer of Kelowna, B.C. They have five young children, three girls and two boys. Allan and Betty now live in Prince George, B.C. Edith Hunter is married and has four children. She is now living in Vancouver.

Ken G. Hunter has followed his Grandfather Hunter's footsteps as he has a blacksmith shop, and lumber yard east of Ma-Me-O Beach. Ken is married but has no family.



The old Post Office and Hunter house at Battle Lake. Built by Heacock.

Bruce Hunter, one of the twins, moved to New Zealand about sixteen years ago. He went there to work for the forestry and when he grew to like the country, he stayed there. Bruce is now married and has two children.

Beth, the second twin, married Edwin Ludwig. They have seven children, three boys and four girls. Beth and Ed bought the old Hunter farm and lived there for a time. In 1970 they sold the farm and moved to New Zealand for a short time. There was plenty of work over there but wages were very low so they came back to Canada. Before they moved to New Zealand, Edwin worked on the oil rigs so he has now gone back to working as a driller. When they lived on the farm he would work up North where the men had to be flown in and out to work. The Ludwig children went to school at Lakedell when they lived at Battle Lake. The Ludwig family now make their home at Red Deer. Beth works at the Deer Home. The five oldest children go to school. Enid Hunter is at present living with Beth Ludwig at Red Deer. Roy Hunter died on the fourteenth of March 1966 and is buried near his parents in the Wetaskiwin cemetery.

THE IMPEY FAMILY

as written by Mrs. Enid Hunter

My parents, Mr. and Mrs. G. Grey Impey, and five children came to Canada in the fall of 1922. We came from Africa. There were two girls and three boys. My Dad homesteaded and got a Soldiers Grant in the Wenham Valley district. My sister married in 1923 to Mr. John Bowman. He was a government fire Ranger for many years. He was also a Veteran of World War I. He was one of the early settlers around Wenham Valley, he passed away many years ago. My sister still lives in the Bowman home in Wenham Valley. My sister had four children, the two boys passed away at an early age, and the one girl a few years old. So there is only one girl living, Mrs. William Rathgeber, of Yeoford. She has two children, a boy and a girl.

My two brothers married and settled around Breton. Hugh married Nora Shenfield, a Wenham Valley school teacher. They live on their farm near Breton. They had two sons, Bud (Hugh), is a surveyor and lives with his wife and children at Grande Prairie. Tom, their youngest son, worked for Dowell Chemical Company for a number of years. He is married also and when his children got to be of school age, he bought a farm close to Breton where they now make their home.

My brother George married Alice Ashby. They farmed just on the outskirts of Breton. He started the milk delivery in the town of Breton. When World War II broke out, he had an auction sale and joined the Army. When he came out of the Army, they moved to B.C. Five years ago he moved to New Zealand, but in 1971 he moved back to Canada and is now making his home on an acreage close to Warburg. He had no children.

Dick, the youngest boy, married Dorothy Macleod. He ran the Breton service station for my Dad for a few years, then he moved to B.C. Down there he hauled logs and joined the army when the war came. They had two children, a girl and a boy. The girl is married and has three children. The boy is a longshoreman. Dick is now retired and lives in Vancouver.

ROBERT W. HUSBAND

My father, Robert W. Husband, rented the dance hall in Winfield July 1931 and converted it to living quarters and a general store. Mother, my sister and I arrived July 11th via the mixed train which we boarded at Leduc. A trip which took many hours and many stops finally brought us to Winfield in pouring rain, and it seemed from then on that it mainly rained in the west country.

In the fall, my sister Lenore returned to Botha to teach school. I remained with my parents to assist in the store. It was hard times and customers were few the first year. However, the town picked up with the coming of the saw mills. Lenore obtained a teaching position at Wenham Valley. The town started growing and my father was quite busy. Mother was active in church and community affairs. In October 1934 Lenore married John Olson and in March 1935 I married Alfred Johansson.

My father built a new store with connecting living quarters beside the building he had rented. Many new businesses, churches and homes were built. My sister went into business with my father, selling novelties and dishes. In August 1943, tragedy struck. The cafe next to Husband's store caught fire and the entire block was burned out except for Engler's Hardware store. The town folk rallied round and were able to save a large share of my parents household goods.

Mother and Dad moved into a house and proceeded once more to build a store. Hard luck struck again after the New Year. The house they were living in burned down and they lost a great deal of their furniture. Dad and Mother stayed with my husband and I until they could find new quarters as they had no insurance either time. They bought Roy Gibbon's house where they lived until their deaths. Both of them were in their seventies at the time of the fires and it was too much for them. My father died in April 1945 and Mother January 31st, 1946.

Church services were held from the home of Mr. and Mrs. Husband for the first few years. It was very difficult to obtain ministers at times. When Mrs. Nicholson died, leaving two children, Mrs. Husband conducted the funeral service, as no minister could come. Richarda (Husband) Johansson was the church organist for thirty-five years.

Submitted by Richarda Johansson.

JESSE HUSEBY

Jesse Huseby was born in Grafton, North Dakota and moved to the Lacombe area with his parents in 1902. He married Muriel Damant. They moved to ranch west of Alder Flats in 1949 where he worked for the government Rabies control and later Predator control and still helps the Forestry service on Beaver control. They moved to their daughter's farm in Bashaw district in 1961. Their family:

Leonard - married Alice Pierson while the family were still in the Lacombe district. Lives in Blackfalds. Family - Rande, Rick, Ron, Robbie, and Rodney.

Norman - returned from Salmon Arm B.C. in 1952 and spent two years on the ranch engaged in the family's sawmill operation. Married Florence Spencer, lives in Sundre Alta., owns and operates oil well service outfit. Family - Phillip and Vicki.

Mabel - married Jalmer Johnson, farm at Bashaw Alta., family - twins Janet and Judy.

Clara - married Bud Scobie, farm at Sunnybrook Alta., family - Martha, Elaine, Raymond, Darlene, Donald and Albert.

Frank - married Helen Kanngiesser, works as foreman in steel works in Calgary, family - Beverly.

Lillian - married the rancher across the river, Harold Smithinsky, now farm at Violet Grove Alta., family - Pauline and Joyce.

Caroline - married Charles Adcock, live in Ponoka Alta., family - Melaney, Holly, Brian, and Deanna.

Jesse's greatest interest was always riding horses. He cleared and broke many acres of land both in the Lacombe area and the Alder Flats district during the 30's and early 40's with a 16 horse outfit.

The Ranch - In the fall during hunting season the house was often full to capacity with beds rolled out on the floors and every corner full. John Kaasa was a frequent visitor and did quite a bit of filming of wildlife in the area. We also attracted visitors from as far away as Sacramento California. Tom and Laurel Sheely visited with us two summers and spent their time watching beaver and other wildlife. Schooling was done by correspondence courses.

Submitted by Mrs. Clara Scobie, 1972.

M.G.G. IMPEY

Mr. and Mrs. M.G.G. Impey and their family of two daughters Ida and Enid, three sons George, Hugh, and Dick, arrived at Wenham Valley in November 1922. We had arrived from England at Edmonton on October 5, only a month before. We settled on ½ 19 - 47 - 3 - W5 in

Wenham Valley while son George settled on $\frac{1}{4}$ section of land in Breton area then known as Keystone settlement. We came from Kenya, East Africa because of the C.P.R. circulars sent world wide to the effect that homestead land could be obtained in Canada for 10 dollars - almost free. It was a long journey by trains and steamship and trains again to Edmonton. Our first home was of lumber with a shingled roof. The farm buildings were of logs with shakes on the roof.

The first postmasters when we arrived were: at Yeoford - J.P. Nowell, at Wenham Valley - W.A. Jones. First school - Wenham Valley S.D. #2956 built in 1913 or 1914. Mr. Beckett taught grades 1 - 8 in 1922 to 1923. We got our supplies from the Yeoford store.

Some of our early neighbors were Mr. Henry Lashway, Mr. Fleming, Mr. Gamble, Mr. Mark Wenham, W.A. Jones, Doc Coby, Mr. Gillies, Dan Nicholson, Ed Elliot.

Farming conditions were very different as farms had small fields that were worked with horses and raised mostly green feed. Later I started growing grain then threshing machines travelled from farm to farm threshing. We carried water from springs, in winter we melted snow and in summer caught rain water in tubs, etc.

Flour then was \$2.50, cotton sacked. Lard was 10¢ per pound, coffee 33¢ per pound, and Rogers Syrup 89¢. The vegetables often froze in the cellars or on the way to the camp cooks. Entertainment was limited to house parties, Christmas concerts at the schools and July 1st Sports Days.

One tragic thing was that a small boy at Knob Hill strayed away from his home and was found dead a few days later.

In the early days we travelled by team and only went places when it was necessary, now cars are used and they seem to be on the road all the time.

Mr. Impey died in 1956. He was 93 years old. Mrs. Impey died in 1958 at the age of 94 years.

Ida married John Bowman and they had two daughters Edith - deceased, Effie who married William Rathgeber and they have two children John and Julie. Enid married Roy Hunter and they made their home at Battle Lake. Their children were Margaret, Kenneth, Alan, Edith, and twins Bruce and Beth.

RICHARD ING

Richard Ing and family came to the Antross district in the spring of 1934. He settled on the south-west section 18, township 47, range 3 W5. Taxes were too high where they lived in the Ardrossan district near Cooking Lake so they decided to try homesteading. His brother Jim had already moved to this district. They came in a covered wagon. The roads were so heavy that the brother's horses played out and couldn't get up the Sunnybrook hill. Mr. Stone came and helped them up the hill and asked them to stay at his place until the horses had rested up a few days.

They moved into a log shack which was on the place.

The children walked $3\frac{1}{4}$ miles to the Antross school. This school was built with lumber donated by Anthony and Ross Lumber Co. and was used mostly by children whose fathers worked in the mills. Miss Hinds was teaching at this time. Antross was also the Post Office with Frank Reid as postmaster.

For their groceries they went to Breton which was eight miles from the homestead, or to Mr. Duncan's at Norbuck. Blueberries were plentiful and so were saskatoons and raspberries.

Some of their early neighbours were John Biro, Jim Impey, Victor Hanson, Jake Neutzing and Rolf Hansen.

Fires were plentiful in the spring of the year and one spring the fires came close to the house so Richard Ing had to backfire around the buildings. Furniture was loaded on a wagon which they covered with a tarp and had dirt piled on top so sparks wouldn't start a fire. This was hauled to the middle of a plowed field. The cattle were chased out of danger to Jim Impey's.

Richard Ing had six children: Marian, Walter, Charlie, Dorothy, Violet, and Myrtle, some of which still live in the district.

Albert and Marian Lidgett live in Wetaskiwin, Walter and Anne Ing in Norbuck, Charlie and family live at Fox Creek, George and Dorothy Buchanan at Breton, Ray and Violet Matthews at Norbuck, Evans and Myrtle Levers at Clive.

Neighbors were very friendly in those days and enjoyed each others company.

INDIAN TERRITORY

One of the first records of people in this area is that of Hudson's Bay servant, Anthony Henday, in the late 17th century. On his travels in western Alberta, he spent a winter (1755) on the headwaters of the Blindman, and another in the Battle Lake Hills. He recalled in his

diary "the freezing weather, and preparation of snow shoes for the deep snow which usually came."

Henday traded with Indians all over this territory. His Indian and French friend, Wap-penew, was one of his main contacts with other Indian trappers, favors were given these "Leaders", who in turn were expected to wield influence with the trappers.

His Indian friends were very fond of steam baths. A hut, four feet high and six feet square was built. In this they placed 20 large stones and these were heated. After sitting naked and sweating for a time, they would run and leap into the lake or river by their camp. In winter, a snow rub would be taken.

There were many skirmishes between tribes in those days. The Cree and Northern Indians were peaceful tribes but could retaliate when attacked. After an attack by a hostile tribe, the Crees retaliated by stealing young boys and girls who were then given to their own people as presents. Once, Henday was presented with two children but refused.

Much trapping was done around Buck Lake and furs were taken to the fort at Rocky Mountain House. Pigeon Lake was called Woodpecker Lake by the Cree, and Battle Lake - Notinitownin Lake (the lake where people fight each other.)

Later on, in the early part of the 1800's, there travelled about central Alberta, a tribe of Cree who settled much of the time in this part of the west country. They camped in a pine grove by Battle River. A young warrior named Maskepetoon often became restless and went on scalping raids. Of course they were often attacked too, by Blackfoot. He did much for his people. Much time was spent also by Buck Lake, called at that time Minnihik, as game and fish were abundant.

Maskepetoon was given Buck Mountain as his trapping range. His name meant "Broken Arm". When he became older, he became chief of his tribe. He was worried that the buffalo would disappear and one of their food sources would be gone. Pelts of beaver and Marten were taken to the Rocky fort.

In 1840, Rev. Rundel came to Battle Lake to work with the Indians. For eight years he did much good work in this area. He became a good friend of Maskepetoon. Perhaps it was his influence that later persuaded the great warrior to become a peace emissary. He spent much time trying to bring peace to tribes. In one of his trips to establish peace with the Blackfoot at Red Deer, he was shot. This ended the saga of a great chief and man.

It is safe to assume that in the tribes travels through here to Buck Lake, they spent many hours on our very farms, as many Indian artifacts have been found in the district. We know the trails made by the early Indians were the first roads travelled by the early homesteader. It is awesome to think that on our quiet, peaceful farms many Indian skirmishes may have been fought.

INDIAN RESERVE

The following information is contained in a letter which I received from the Indian Affairs Branch (federal) in reply to a query about the Buck Lake Indian Reserve. It is dated January 17, 1950.

The Buck Lake Indian Reserve comprises sections 16, 17, 20, and 21 in Township 45 Range 5 West of the 5th. It was established about 1914. The exact date is not known. About four families of the Samson Band of Indians from Hobbema were living in the vicinity of Buck Lake at the time and the reserve was set aside for them. Several members of these families died in the flu epidemic of 1919 and the remaining members of the band were transferred to Paul's Band at Wabamun, and the reserve was surrendered for sale but was never sold. In the fall of 1949 the boundaries were marked out again after 30 years, and the reserve was to be made available to some of the Hobbema Indians.

Following the many deaths around 1918 - 1919, the land became regarded as taboo and no Indian would set foot there for years. Some, however, came to the district to hunt and fish and some lived on other land for a time.

INDIAN TRAILS

There were any number of "Buck Lake Trails" in the early days. I live right on top of one of them. It led to Rimbey and Lacombe in the other direction. It was sometimes called the Hudson Bay Trail; I wouldn't know why. Traces of another Buck Lake Trail can still be seen close to Highway 12 north of the Base line that were used by fishermen in the 1920's, but oil activity in the area has all but obliterated them.

I expect lumbering will provide some of the more interesting chapters in your book. There must still be records of early lumbering operations in the area, as well as many a

wild and hilarious story. I know that if you rode down from Edmonton on "the Peanut" in the 1920's or 30's just about when the camps shut down at Christmas time, you would get home with an infestation of lice; all species and varieties.

I don't know if this will be much help, but if you can think of anything else I might be able to help you with, let me know.

There were three main routes between Fort Edmonton and Rocky Mountain House in the 19th century. The main one was by Pigeon Lake and Gull Lake and through the Medicine Lodge Hills. Another followed the river, used by dogteams in winter and by canoe or York boat in summer, but sometimes travellers went via Buck Lake.

Fred Schultz Bluffton

MR. AND MRS. OSCAR INGEBRETSON

Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Ingebreton, Roy and Ruth came to Norbuck from Frontier, Sask. during the summer of 1930. That fall the first school in the district was started, with Miss Pierce as teacher. The school was held in the big front room of Frank Rath's house, --the room that later became Frank Rath's Store. By the next fall a nice new school house was built, just up from Ralph Burris' place, with Mr. Morgan French as the teacher. Roy and Ruth were among the first group of pupils to attend that school.

When the war came, Mr. Ingebreton joined the Army, and Roy joined the Navy, and the family moved to Edmonton. Eventually the Ingebretons moved to Toronto, where Mr. and Mrs. Ingebreton, Roy and his wife June are still living. Mr. and Mrs. Ingebreton are retired. In 1950 Roy married a Toronto girl, June Grant. He has been working in Toronto since his discharge from the Navy. Ruth married Jack Hickel of Main Centre, Sask. in 1951. They have three children - Marjorie, Wendy and Roy. At present they are living in Eckville, Alta. where Jack is the Hospital Administrator.

ANDREW INGLIS

The Andrew Inglis family arrived at Minnehik as it was then known in June 1930, from Gwynne Alberta where they had operated a general store. The trip out was very hard, bad roads, broken down truck etc. Father (Mr. Inglis) had gone out first and got the building ready. Our opposition was a Mr. Tipping, one of the first settlers, having moved out to the Wolfe Creek area years before anyone. Mr. Inglis owned a half section west of Buck Lake, North half 28 - 46 - 6 - 5. They operated a general store on the north east corner of the N.W. $\frac{1}{4}$ of section 9 T. 45 R. 6 W5 for about four years. The depression was at it's height and about the only available cash was the relief cheques. They moved the store building down to their homestead which was quite an ordeal, it was cut in two and moved by every available horse in the country.

The four Inglis boys joined the Armed Forces in 1939. In 1940 a daughter Margaret married Ed Langford, who was a fish warden at Buck Lake in 1941. Margaret taught school in the 1930's to some of the children in the community at her home. The Inglis family lived on the homestead for about five years then moved to Buck Lake where Mr. Inglis died in 1945, about a month before the four boys came back from overseas.

Mr. Inglis' brother Jack owned a store on the south shore of Buck Lake which he purchased from Mr. Tipping in the early thirties. He sold it after the war to Steve Hlavoy and Ed Kluczney. Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Inglis had five children. They are Fred, living at Mission B.C. He has two girls. Jim at Nâcusp B.C. has four girls and three boys. Norman at Buck Lake has three boys and three girls. Eddy at Victoria B.C. is single. Margaret Langford at Lantzville B.C. had one boy and one girl and one boy deceased.

Margaret's first recollection of the west country was the Pendryl district, of going to church every Sunday, the minister was a man by the name of Mr. Turnbull, of suppers in the Pendryl Hall which were very enjoyable.

The dances were well attended by young and old and the women brought the lunches for the midnight suppers. Later on when the Alder Flats district opened up, the activities became more varied and there were ball games, school concerts and recreation for all age groups which was one of the nicer memories of a pioneer district.

WEST OF THE BLINDMAN - JOHN ILLE

This is the tragic tale of a man's last days and something of the weeks and months preceding them. The man was John Ille, (rhymes with Riley) early homesteader in the Pendryl district; part time trapper and mill hand.

I first heard Ille's story in 1949, when I was hunting in the country where he had lived

and run a trapline, south and east of Buck Lake. A small lake near the base line, in township 44, range 5, is still called Ille's Lake, and there, on the north shore, you may still find the site of the cabin where John Ille lived years ago.

Ille was an American by birth, but other than that, I was able to turn up little about his background. Those who knew him said that he was always somewhat unconventional and very uncommunicative. His homesteading efforts never bore much fruit. He never became a farmer, although he appears to have homesteaded on two different quarter sections. Sometimes he worked in the lumber camps, but he preferred to make his living on the trapline, and this, together with hunting and fishing, provided for all his needs.

Sometime in the 1930's Ille developed a disfiguring illness, which might be diagnosed from this point in time and distance as an erodent ulcer or cancer which spread gradually from his mouth over the rest of his face. He refused to see a doctor or to have any medical attention, and continued to live alone, becoming more and more of a recluse as the disease progressed. Whenever he chanced to meet someone he would pull the corner of his shirt collar or his coat collar in front of his mouth and keep his head averted while talking to the person.

After a time he took to tying a handkerchief around his face in the manner of a masked bandit, and persons who saw him at that time noted that the sores were creeping close to his eyes.

Still later he resorted to wearing a cotton sack over his head. He had cut two small holes for his eyes and was never seen without this klux-like hood once he took to wearing it. About the same time he began to answer his door with a gun in his hand. It can readily be imagined that from this point on he would be left pretty much to himself and his last days would be left unbrightened by many visitors. One day, toward the end, an Indian lad, looking for strayed horses, knocked at Ille's door. He heard sounds of movement within the cabin, and the unmistakeable clatter of a shell being levered into the breech of a rifle. He waited no longer but left on the run, and at the first opportunity took steps to have the RCMP at Wetaskiwin notified of the situation.

Later, when the police arrived on what they may well have supposed to be a routine investigation, they found John Ille quite dead.

An epilogue to the story, which may contain a grain of truth, or none at all, says that when the police had removed John Ille's body, they burned the shack to the ground as the only means of leaving the place in a safe and sanitary condition. In doing so, this story continues, they may have burned a sizeable bundle of cash, for it was thought that the trapper's income over the years had far exceeded the amount spent for his few necessities, and he never had a bank account.

At his death, he was taken by sleigh to Maywood Cemetery where a grave was dug. The next day the police and the priest failed to show up, so Mr. Ille was buried without any services.

MR. AND MRS. EDWARD IRWIN

Mr. Irwin came to the Pendryl District in 1921 for purposes of homesteading. He was born in Ireland and came here from southern Alberta. He first homesteaded S.W. 4 - 46 - 5 - 5 and later moved to N.E. 4 - 46 - 5 - 5.

Mrs. Irwin (Miss Flemming) came from Scotland in 1916 to keep house for her brother. She took her nursing training in Canada. Miss Flemming came to Pendryl as District nurse in 1929. Her only means of transportation to do her nursing was on horseback and she travelled many miles to visit her patients.

Mr. and Mrs. Irwin were married in 1930. One child, Keith, was born in 1933. Keith attended Maywood School and later moved to Edmonton.

Mrs. Irwin is well remembered for organizing and helping with the first Health Clinic at Pendryl Hall. This much needed clinic gave people the opportunity for medical attention which otherwise they would not have received. Mr. Irwin was a very active member in the U. F.A.

Mr. Irwin resided on the farm until his passing in 1958, at which time Mrs. Irwin moved to Edmonton with Keith. Mrs. Irwin lived there until she passed away in 1967.

Their land was sold to Eric Engblom in 1964 and is now farmed by Victor Engblom.

Keith resides at Beaumont and works in Edmonton.

IVES FAMILY

Harry as a young man was very interested in sports, especially hockey and baseball. He joined the army and went overseas in 1916 as a member of the Rocky Mt. Rangers Mounted Battalion. On his return he and his brother Bill worked in B.C. in logging and lumber operations. They came to Hanna then in to the Buck Lake area in 1922. On april 14, 1923 Harry married Lottie Cox. They left the district, Harry to find employment in B.C. and Lottie to Lacombe to complete her studies to become a school teacher. In 1928 they returned, Harry to homestead S.E. 35 - 45 - 6 - W5. Bill lived on the land now owned by Norman Brown. Harry worked as a sawyer at Willson's mill. They lived for a time there and then moved to the house formerly occupied

by I.O. Gibbons. During this time, Lottie taught one term at Buck Lake school.

Bill was mail man from Winfield to Buck Lake in the late 1920's. Harry took over these duties from him in 1930 and continued until 1936.



L. to R. Stanley, Laurel and Dallas. In front Keith and Ronnie. H. Ives children.



Bill Ives at the homestead house on Wolfe River, 1922.



Harry Ives - World War I Veteran - Going overseas with the 172 Rocky Mountain Rangers Mounted Battalion in 1916.

There is a family of seven children. Dallas is employed at Saudi Arabia - married and they have two boys. Laurel married, they have four girls. He has been a bronco-buster for 23 years. They live in California. Alice - married, they have three girls and one boy and lives in Victoria B.C. Stanley - married. They have six children, two boys and four girls. Keith married to Elsie Ruth Carlson. They live on the farm at Buck Lake. Ronald married and has three children. He is General Manager of Baroid Mud at Fort St. John, B.C. Lois married Donald Hengel. They have five children. Don teaches school and they live at Westlock. Harry has a soldier grant on S.W. 36 - 45 - 6 - W5. Ken Muskelo at one time owned N.W. 36 - 45 - 6 - W5 which is owned by Roy Berg. Bill Ives died in 1964. Harry died Nov. 20, 1969.

PASTOR RUDOLPH JACOBSON

It was in the fall of the year 1944 that Selma and Rudolph Jacobson received a call by letter through Pastor A.W. Rasmussen, from the Westrose Gospel Church to come and try out as their pastor for six months. We were both attending the Philadelphia church Bible school for one month in Chicago. We just arrived from a year as assistant pastor in the State of Vermont. We answered 'yes' and we made preparation to leave for Canada. The car we owned was a 1929 four door Oldsmobile six cylinder, we had bought two summers ago for \$76.50. It was in good shape and it served us well since we knew little about Canada. Our relatives warned us of the terrible winters, the wolves and who knows, the bears, and coyotes, and we do not belittle these dangers. The winters did get rough at times we admit, but the Lord did help us and we are grateful. In November 1944 we said goodbye to our friends and relatives and our church in Chicago, Ill. We were pulling a two wheel utility trailer loaded higher than our car, with all our earthly possessions. About a week later, we arrived in Westrose, Alta. at the church parsonage where we stayed for eight years. We arrived in the deep snow, the roads were not paved and were rather rough. All went well except for a few flat tires along the way. It was a new world for us, we received a wonderful welcome from the church folks, and the neighbors in the area, and then we met for the first time the church folks and met such friends as the Kimmy's and Hunters, Fontaines, Ericksons, Beaths and others whose kindness and friendship shall not be forgotten. The Sunday School work in Battle Lake was going good under the fine leadership of Missionary Tom Harland now stationed in Japan and it continued to be an inspiration for Selma and myself. The annual Christmas Programs when parents and neighbors came out were special times of happiness as we celebrated the birth of Jesus Christ. One of the homes among the many I would like to mention was the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ross Beath. In their home, we met many times in meetings around the organ as sister Beath played and we sang the old gospel songs together, and prayed and read the Bible and testified and had

some wonderful meals and social times. Sister Beath was a good organist and often played.

She is gone now and how we did miss her. The children are now married and so goes life, we have so many precious friends in that area, it holds many memories. Many a time we were stuck in the mud, had to get help and the neighbors were so helpful. The car came in good to help transport both young and old folks time and time again. There were trials and tears at times, and sickness, and then health and joy in serving others. For the stove, wood had to be sawed and split and some coal mixed in. Water had to be hauled, snow to be melted for washing. No electricity in those days, so we enjoyed the many cottage meetings and social times very much with lamps. We are thankful for you all.

In 1952 we left Westerose for our new post in Amisk, Alberta. In the year of 1964, my beloved Selma went to be with the Lord. It was very hard for me. Later on, God gave me another help mate, a widow, Mrs. Agnes Nordin, former wife of the late Evangelist Carl Nordin.

We are at present pastoring in the city of Wetaskiwin, and often think of Battle Lake and our time there. We wish you all the best.

Signed Pastor and Mrs. Rudolph Jacobson.



Rev. and Mrs. R. Jacobson, pastor of Battle Lake Sunday School.

JEFFCOTT FAMILY

John Francis Jeffcott was born in Cork County, Southern Ireland, and died in London Ontario in 1927 around fifty years of age.

Edger Davis was born in Oregon, U.S.A. He died in London Ont. in the fall of 1948 around eighty years of age.

Norah Davis (nee)Bower) was born in London, England in 1878. She died in Edmonton, Alta. on Jan. 20, 1966 at the age of 87.

Edger Davis came into the country from Oregon by train then horse and wagon in 1919 and settled in the Alder Flats area. Davis' first wife, Florence died in Wetaskiwin on the way out from Oregon. Florence was Norah's first cousin. They had two children, a boy

who died in the States just before they came out west, and a girl whose whereabouts is unknown.

Norah Bower married John F. Jeffcott in London England. They had seven children. Nora Jeffcott died at the age of five. Mrs. D. (Violet) Page lives in London, Ont. Mrs. G. (Dorothy) Hoare, lives in London, Ont. Francis B. Jeffcott of Tampa, Arizona. Josephine Romanson of Canmore, Alta. John L. Jeffcott of Alder Flats. Benner F. Jeffcott of Alder Flats, Alta.

Norah Jeffcott and three children, Josephine, John and Benner came west in Sept. 1950 by train to Camrose, then travelled by horse and wagon. Norah married Edger Davis on the way through Wetaskiwin. Their first home was a log cabin where J.L. Seelys Imperial Oil Bulk Station now stands. In 1947 they sold out and went to London Ont. Davis died in the fall of 1948 and after his death Norah came back to Alder Flats in the spring of 1951.

Some of the people that were here when the Jeffcotts came out were Ole Bergquist, Damants, Sissons, Henry Rose and Wilsons. The Wilsons were Mrs. Sissons father and brother, they lived where Elgin Nicolls old farm is. Both father and son Wilson died late Dec. or early January 1932-33.

A few came later -- John Forchuk, John Scrybalo, Sam Maciborski. Batiuks, Dyzak, Basiaks, Hicks and Sam Johnson. These were some of the people who named Alder Flats. Some of the names suggested at the time were: Poplar Flats, Spruce Flats, Pine Ridge, Swampy Flats. Finally the local citizens settled for Alder Flats. The first store was owned by Sheliday from Killam, Alta. This is the present site of Bohnings store.

JESSE JAMES

Jesse James was born in Missouri, U.S.A. He was a veteran of the Spanish American war and in answer to a question Mynor Campbell once put to him, definitely denied being any relation of the notorious Frank and Jesse James. He never mentioned any relatives. He died in approximately 1942 and it was several days before a neighbour found he had died in his house alone. Mynor Campbell was appointed by R.C.M.P. as Public Administrator and his land N.E. $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 13 - 46 - 5 - 5 was duly sold.

MRS. A.E. JOHANSSON

In October, 1929, Alfred Johansson was sent to Winfield by the C.P.R. as a relief foreman. The railway had been completed to Winfield but was to continue through to Leduc. Mr. Johansson returned to Lacombe in December and was sent back in the spring of 1930 to Winfield as foreman where he remained until his retirement in 1965.

The railway was completed to Leduc in 1930 and 1931. There were few roads in the country and all were dirt roads so in bad weather the railway was the only means of travel. The mixed train ran from Leduc to Lacombe one day and back the next except Sundays. If there were any emergencies, Mr. Johansson had to use his track motor car to transport patients to Rimbey Hospital or bring the Doctor out from Rimbey, who at that time was Dr. John Byers.

Roads were built but still in bad weather were impassible, so the rail was still depended on. In one instance, Mr. Johansson was called to take Mrs. Armitage, the druggist's wife, to the hospital. However, their start was slow and the baby was born on the motor-car quite some miles from Rimbey. The weather was cold so there was no use stopping so the lady and child were well wrapped and they proceeded as fast as possible. The Doctor was waiting at the Rimbey station and was quite amazed to discover the birth had already taken place. Both mother and baby were fine.

Another time a pregnant lady (this was Roland Russell's wife) was transported by motor-car, they only got as far as the Hoadley section house. Thankfully, Nurse Sabin was along and delivered the baby. However, mother and child could not be taken on by open motor-car, so Johansson phoned Winfield and learned that an extra Train had just arrived, so permission was obtained from Edmonton for the train to be left at Winfield and just the engine and caboose proceed to Hoadley to pick up mother and child and take them to Rimbey. Many other cases were taken by rail but these are two outstanding ones.

During the war years when gas was scarce and few cars around, Mr. Johansson transported many people to hospital in Wetaskiwin and Edmonton with his own car. Truck drivers helped him with gas coupons.

There are many other experiences Mr. Johansson could relate of happenings in the town of Winfield but time is too short.

Mrs. A.E. JOHANSSON, SUITE 105, 511 ASH STREET, NEW WESTMINSTER, B.C.

As near as I can remember after all these years, I started a Girl Guide Troup in Winfield in the fall of 1931. There were not too many young girls but I did have enough for one patrol. This was approved by the Girl Guide Provincial Commissioner, Lady Rodney. Everyone was hard-up in those days so we obtained money for uniforms and equipment by having teas and selling home cooking, putting on concerts, and selling Guide cookies. It was quite hard to obtain assistance for the Guides but we carried on for several years. In 1936, we sent our first group to Guide Camp at Pigeon Lake. I believe I quit as Guide Captain in the spring of 1938. No one else offered to take over so the Guides were disbanded. One other event of interest I should mention. In April 1935, I attended a Guide rally in Edmonton. The guests of honour were the founders, Lord and Lady Baden-Powell.

In the fall of 1946, I was contacted by Mr. Holloway, Provincial Commissioner of Scouts and Mrs. Poubfrey, District Commissioner of Guides. They wished to know if a meeting could be arranged with the people and the children of Winfield, for the purpose of starting both Guides and Scouts. A meeting was arranged in Mr. Mickelberry's hall. The school children were allowed to attend. We had a very successful meeting resulting in the forming of Scouts, Cubs, Guides, and Brownies. A joint committee was formed and leaders for all groups selected. We had many successful years. Our yearly Ice Carnival to raise funds for all groups was always looked forward to by all.

I do have a Winfield Gazette dated March 8th, 1950. Two columns on the front page describe the fourth annual Ice Carnival sponsored by the Scout and Guide Associations. Through this article I was able to obtain the names of the Leaders at that time. Mrs. Alfred Johansson, Guide Captain, Mrs. Ed Hunter, Brownie Leader, Mrs. Helen Sabin, Cub Master and R.A. Kennett, Scoutmaster. There were many more who assisted, Mrs. Aron Brown as my Lieutenant for a time. Mrs. Laidlaw had the Rangers, and the girls also helped me. Chuck Cartwright taught S. John's Ambulance First Aide. The Parkers, Keith Johnson, Mrs. Gref, Jack Gibbons, the assistance, was wonderful. On December 19th, 1949, I was very proud to receive a certificate of Good Service in Guiding from Mrs. Estelle Wishart, the Guide Commissioner for the Dominion of Canada. After quite a few successful years, people moved and we hadn't any leaders to carry on so all groups were disbanded, I believe in 1952, could have been 1953.

THE HANK (HARRY) JOHNSON FAMILY

I was twelve years old when I came with my parents 200 miles south of here. It was almost the middle of October in 1922. We had suffered three years of drought. I can still remember our cattle bawling over the fence because the pasture was dry and brown. It was a visit from the late Bill Ives that prompted the move. My father knew him in British Columbia. Dad returned with Bill to inspect this area and he liked what he saw and filed on our homestead.

That summer was an exciting one for me. Getting ready to move was no easy task. My aunt (Mrs. Collins) and my mother kept the ovens going for a week, baking tins and tins of cookies, bread, pies and cakes. Then we had crocks of salt pork and crates of eggs. The men were busy loading hayracks with machinery, and our furniture all went too. The machinery had to be taken apart to fit in the racks. There were 8 wagons, 22 head of horses and 40 head of cattle. Part of this belonged to my uncle (Roll Rice) as he travelled with us and lived around Maywood area for about three years before he returned to his farm at Rumsey.

We travelled in two separate groups as the cattle could not be hurried. All the machinery and furniture, pigs and chickens arrived a week before we did with the cattle. I rode with either my father or my uncle and sometimes it took all three of us to drive the stock. We had two covered wagons and three saddle horses. I remember once when our horses wandered five miles back toward Rumsey. We always had one saddle horse staked though. A young man going to a dance told us he had seen them. We got off to a late start that morning. There were eight cows to milk morning and night besides my uncles who had four. We fed the milk to the calves and gave it to farmers. It was my job to get the calves from inside the fences as Dad said it was easier for me to get on and off my horse. I didn't mind except when there were other cattle on the inside and then there would be a lot of bawling, fighting and fence pushing before we could get them moving and count our calves. As we drove through the small towns, our cattle would bolt for the stockyards and it would be an hour or more before we got them moving.

One thing I liked about my trip was the small stores we came to as either my father or uncle would always give me a dime or a quarter to spend and I'd have candy for sometimes a very long time as a quarter bought a lot even then. However, I was still often starved at meal-times.

I well remember the day we left Rumsey my eldest sister (Elsie) drove the pig and chicken wagon. She flatly refused to drive those squealing brutes through our home town. We always kidded her about that.

Because of the dry years, many of the wells were dry or only enough for peoples own use. Sometimes it was miles before we could find enough to water 40 head of stock besides our horses and fill our water cans. The feed too was a problem. We were able to buy bundles of grain or we turned them in a pasture for the night or they fed along the road side. Of course, after we passed Nevis, things began to improve but by the time we arrived at Buck Lake our cows gave very little milk. Some were foot sore and by now instead of drought it was a miry mess. Out of one mud hole into another. Our horses and cattle both had to be pulled out of these bogs.

Altogether in both groups there were 22 head of horses, there were eight drivers, three of which we hired.

My brother Henry and his train of 6 wagons were one week on the road and they camped on the Taylor place later known as the Walbridge place, until we caught up. It took us 13 days as we could only make about 15.4 miles a day.

Many of our cattle and horses died that first winter as they weren't used to the native grass that grew so high on the lakeshore and it was impossible to buy enough feed, the people just didn't have it for sale. We bought bundles and wild hay from the late Mr. Erwin, Mr. Pete Bjur and Mr. Siegel.

The first young people we met were Ebba and Lena Bjur who later became sister-in-laws.

We lived in a small house that belonged to the Calhouns. It was about 12 X 16 and we girls slept on mattresses on the floor.

That first Christmas we had 22 for dinner. I don't know how we all managed to get in, but we did have fun. They were all new friends.

In 1923 we started a large log house on our homestead. It was never very warm or comfortable. In 1939 Dad and Mom built a lumber house and I now live in it. My father passed away October 8th, 1941. My mother lived in the house until a short time before her death Sept. 28th, 1968. My sister Elsie passed away 2 days later Sept. 30th, 1968. All are buried in the Maywood Cemetery.

In 1927 I met and married Harry Johnson. We have four children, Kenneth, Albert, Joan, and Walter. We have 22 grandchildren.

You can still see the old part of our log house which we built on the homestead in 1932. We lived in it that winter and the next year it hailed and pounded the tar paper on the roof full of holes. It rained so much that I mopped my floor every day until finally when it came down in buckets, I opened the cellar door and swept it in. We had every available pot and pan under a drip. The next year we made shakes and put on the roof.

We had very little sickness in our family those days and those wonderful nurses really looked after the people. We all loved them.

My mother worked with several of the nurses and sometimes delivered the babies herself before they could reach the patient as they either drove a sleigh, wagon, or came on horseback. In fact, my mother delivered my own daughter (Joan).

Our eldest son Kenneth now lives at Prince George, B.C. and has two children, Albert our second son lives at Golden, B.C. and he has a baker's dozen, 13 children. Our daughter Joan lives in Edmonton and has 2 children. The youngest son Walter lives in Smithers, B.C. and his family consists of five children.

One thing I recall so clearly about the early days was the blue film that was on every mud puddle. Little did we realize then that there was a vast oil field below us.

For entertainment we gathered in the homes and sang songs, danced and some would do a step dance. The new hall was used for many community affairs. One might recall that one night it turned close to 60 below. We stayed at the hall until it was light enough to see and believe me we danced to keep warm.

We always took cake or sandwiches for midnight lunch and also cream for coffee. There were also Christmas concerts, pie socials and "Masquerades".

My husband was born at Lacombe, it was and is yet a fine farming area. After we came to Buck Lake either our grain was drowned out, hailed out, frozen or it grew so rank it never ripened. He was often discouraged and felt he would never try to grow grain again. Even when we seeded it to clover it was often so wet and rainy at cutting time we had very poor quality feed. Sometimes our gardens were completely ruined from too much moisture. However we were always grateful to have enough to winter our stock and potatoes for ourselves. Most years there were wild fruits. What a delight to see the ground blue with luscious blueberries or red cranberries, and acres of wild raspberries. One year I made 22 tins (4 lb. size) of raspberry jam. How my family loved waffles with blueberries and whipped cream for breakfast or supper after school.

There were two stores where we traded, one was Sam Weavers to the south, later operated by Mr. Gust Bjur and the Sabin store just across from the Herman Siegel farm. We got our mail from Harold Weavers and later we had a rural mail box.

I attended the Maywood school No. 3951. My teachers names were James A. Habkuk, he taught for three months but the isolation was too much and he resigned. I cried when he said good-bye as he was a very fine teacher. F.S. Willows taught the rest of the term until December, then Myrtle Forman taught the next 6 months from May to October. Then I also had another teacher, a Mr. Smith but I can't remember whether he was first or the last who taught during my seventh and eighth grades. I still have my report card since 1924.

Life was difficult in the early years here but we didn't have the stress and insecurity people suffer to-day.

MR. AND MRS. BILL JOHNSON

Chris and Bill Johnson, along with four children; Keith, the oldest, then Peggy, Dick and baby Glen, left their home at Springdale, 8 miles south and east of Red Deer, in the spring of 1931 to take up a homestead in the Poplar Valley district 2½ miles north and east of Winfield. Collin was born about two years later.

Three close neighbors at Springdale, the Art Jones', Ben Abbotts and Fred Warners preceded them to Winfield. Being hailed out and rained out three years in a row decided them to make this new venture. Incidentally, Glen Johnson and Lorne Jones were born in the same Red Deer Hospital just a day apart, Glen being the older.

All possessions and the family came by boxcar. While building a home on their homestead, they lived for a short time in a small house on the King place (now Jim McNaughtons) then to Browns (now Brodersons) which they had rented.

There was only a winding trail between Winfield and Buck Lake. A trail had to be cleared through the timber to commute between their temporary home and their homestead where they were building their new house.

As there was no school, a meeting was held at Alice Lund's home (the Dennis Abbott place now) to organize a school district. Clemmers donated land and building began on a

log schoolhouse which burned down a few years later. Harry Dewar's father was the first foreman of building the second school, then handed the job over to Bill Johnson. He also took over the chairmanship of the school board from Mr. Hanlin Walsh who was the first one.

A bachelor, Walter Johnson (no relation) was the closest neighbor on one side and Orrin Day on the other. Other neighbors moving in later were the Schiefferts, La Placas', Bob and Effie Brown. None now remain.

The Browns lived immediately west and across from Orrin Days. Their children were Wilda, Bobby, Louise (now Mrs. Henry Larsen of Breton) and George who died of a gun mishap. He was about twelve years old at the time.

Bill Johnson, Fred Heinz and Oscar Ostrom and other helpers built the Winfield Hotel for Mr. Bendix in the early thirties. Bill and Fred Heinz also built Engler and Yemans machine shop.

As Chris and Bill had one of the few cars in the country at that time, they often had to rush neighbors near and far to doctors at either Thorsby or Rimbey. Bill believes he was the first to go over the Hoadley road with a car, when he had to make a rush trip to Rimbey with May Walsh who had a severe appendix attack.

There was a bad thunder and rain storm that day and the road was still unfinished so it was almost impassable.

The homesteading years brought many trials and hardships along with many happy memories. The family is now scattered some. Keith and Glen have homes on the family farm. Keith had been the Postmaster in Winfield since he came back from the second world war with his bride Doris. Their three children Wayne, Kevin, and Sandra all finished their schooling in Winfield and are all residing in Edmonton now.

Glen is a water well driller and does some farming. He married Valdis Norman on June 5, 1953. They have six children, Nolan, who is 17 and working out, Len, Laurie, Ivan and Patsy all going to school, and one pre-schooler, Marilyn.

Dick is living in Vancouver with his wife Jean and daughter Beverly who is still in school. They have two grown sons, Rick and Allan. Allan is married and has two children.

Peggy is married to Ken Glinz, formerly of Calgary. They have lived in Edmonton throughout most of their marriage and have three married daughters and two sons at home.

Collin, the youngest is living in Edmonton with his wife Kay and two children. Collin works for Twin Bridges.

Granny and Grandpa Johnson, as the family and neighbors call them, are still enjoying their gardening and flowers. They are still able to maintain their cabin at Viola Beach on Pigeon Lake.

MRS. (LIEF BERNES) JOHNSON

We came from Biggar, Sask. to Hoadley in November 1933, then cooked at the Camp at Battle Lake for Charlie Freeman and Albert Nadeau. In April 1935, we came to Winfield to a small, two room shack near Sid Carter, our post-master.

To get to Winfield in those days we had to go around by Battle Lake first, then swing back to Winfield. The road going directly to Hoadley from Winfield wasn't built until 1937. We arrived here in a sleigh with team.

I had a laundry business for one and a half years doing washing for the men who worked at Carroll Bros. mill and Etter-McDougall's mill. Later I went to different homes, washing, scrubbing, anything to get a few dollars to raise my three daughters, Ethel, Bernice and Joyce. I don't think there is a home in Winfield that I haven't done some papering or painting in.

In October 1942, I married Alf Johnson and we had one more daughter, Anne. The girls all got their education in Winfield.

Alf came from Norway in 1926 and saw some very tough times. He trapped and worked in lumber camps. He was a carpenter by trade so spent the next twenty years working in Newfoundland and Cambridge Bay, N.W.T. then another six years at the Brazeau Dam.

Alf remodelled our home here in Winfield. We think this is a nice friendly place to live, and reasonable taxes. I certainly wouldn't want to go back to Saskatchewan after being in Alberta with its bush and timber.

Blanch Johnson

ELMOR JOHNSON

Elmor Johnson came from Dodge City, Kansas at the age of 16 with his folks and settled on a farm north of Breton. At the age of 21, in 1930 took a homestead north of the Pendryl store ($\frac{1}{2}$ mile north of Spruce Hill school) and built a small log house and barn which

burned in a bush fire a few years later. He farmed with his folks until 1939 when he married Hazel Sutherland and moved onto a farm north of Alsike store. In the six years at Alsike, Joyce and Ted and Arlene were born. Then in 1947 they moved to Edmonton. In 1949 they moved to Pendryl to the homestead at Spruce Hill. While there, Elaine was born. Joyce, Ted and Arlene took their early years of schooling at Spruce Hill school. Mr. Thomas Sheridan was teaching. Then in 1955 they moved to Winfield to do the janitor work at the Winfield school until his passing in Jan. 1957. Hazel continued to live in Winfield and in 1964 married Roy Borden. They moved to Wetaskiwin in 1970.

Joyce - now Mrs. Percy Law of Wetaskiwin. She has three children, Karen - 12, Sharon - 10, Chayne - 2 months.

Ted - single and attending university in Calgary.

Arlene - now Mrs. Wayne Hedlund of Drayton Valley. She has two children, Jodi - 7, Lyle - 4.

Elaine - single. Working at Blue Cross in Edmonton.

ARTHUR T. JONES

Art Jones, accompanied by his two sons, Lloyd and Melvin, arrived in November of 1929, at Winfield. They came with two teams and racks. One rack had a tent set up on it.

They spent the first winter with Ernest Russel at Norbuck. In the spring of 1930, Mrs. Hazel Jones, Sidney and Lorne joined the rest of the family. After coming to Winfield, they had a daughter, Audrey and a son, Larry.

Mr. Jones homesteaded the quarter now owned by Dilly's, but did not live there. They lived on south east $\frac{1}{4}$ 26 - 46 - 4 - 5, until 1935. Then they moved to the north east $\frac{1}{4}$ 26 - 46 - 4 - 5 on which his son, Melvin, still resides with his family.

They came from Red Deer to Winfield, because of the high price of land around Red Deer. With the family growing up, he needed to move where land was cheaper and Winfield was the chosen place.

At the time they arrived at Winfield there were no roads from Winfield to Norbuck corner. Mr. Frank Brecken and Art Jones brushed a road from Brecken's corner to the Norbuck corner. Mr. Bert Abbott, Fred Warner and Hubert Warner cleared a road from Winfield to Mr. Brecken's; for the big sum of nothing.

The first house they lived in was a log house. In 1929, the date of their arrival, the Winfield Post Office was run by Sid Carter.

Their neighbors that were here before them were Jimmy Matthews, Ernest Russel, and Ralph Burris and family. Other neighbors were Brecken's, Stanford Nelson's, three Warner families and Bert Abbott and family.

Farming conditions weren't up to much, because of bush, brush and wild grass, which made farming an inconvenience.

The first school that the Jones kids attended in 1929 was in Winfield taught by Mrs. Ann Taylor. In 1930, the teacher was Mrs. Bernard, in 1931, Johnny Thresher taught. In 1932, Art Jones built the desks for the Norbuck school which was held in the same building as the store and Post Office. This building was owned by Frank Rath. From that year on, the Jones children attended the Norbuck school.

They got their groceries from Sanford Nelson's lumber camp, and Winfield General store owned by Gibbon's.

A well was dug and is still in use under the old house now owned by Mance Sherwood.

Prices then didn't compare with prices of nowadays but neither did the amount of money compare with that of today's. Butter was 10¢ per lb. and eggs were 8¢ a dozen. Art Jones sold a truck load of cattle for \$130.00. He purchased a young sow from John Engblom that dressed 390 pounds for \$7.00 cash.

One of the problems they had was keeping the kids and wife in shoes when walking from school and town, in the cinders of the railroad, as there were no roads.

One time, Art Jones and Frank Brecken put two loads of straw on the track in front of the train. The train pushed it to their farm and the railroad men helped them unload it.

The mail was kept until they sold a dozen eggs so they could get eight cents to send their letters.

For entertainment they danced in each other's houses each Friday night. Some of the neighbors played instruments so kids and all had fun.

The bushes were so thick that blizzards were prevented but fires went through just about every year. Jones didn't loose any building by fire. One year Frank Brecken and Art

Jones sythed hay all summer, then after this, the fire came and burned it all up.

One of the interesting events was the first sheep herder's picnic, held in July, 1945. The picnic started when all the people that had sheep hired Mr. Burris to herd their sheep. That summer they joined the herder for the picnic.



The Art Jones Family's first home in centre. On the right is the second home. Audrey was born in house with only blanket on the door; no doors and windows were in yet. Mrs. Jones was alone at the time.

Mrs. and Mrs. Joe Mahaffey's anniversary. Back - Ed Hunter, Lloyd Jones, Ethel Hunter, Florence Jones, Betty Mahaffey, Mary Mahaffey, Ted Mahaffey, Louis Gillespie, Esther Gillespie, Leroy Mahaffey.



Bill Panek, Lorne Jones, Bob and Bill Jr. Panek.



Marie Panek

Mrs. John Schieffert and son, Albert.



Frank Brecken's first home.ome.

There is no comparison to the days of past and the days of today. The people were happier and took less to satisfy them. The neighbors visited more then than they do now, even if they had to walk. They didn't have to be dressed in their best clothes to be recognized.

Quote from Art Jones, "I'm well satisfied with the move I made and Winfield is a nice place to live. I've never been sorry that I came here."

told by Art Jones, April 11, 1970 at the age of 83



Front: Art Jones, Allan Jones, Pat and Stan Panke, Dale Jones, Alfred Johanson, John Olson, Richarda Johanson. Back: Mrs. Bracken, Greg Jones, Melvin Jones, Donna Jones, Grace Jones, Gladys Panek, Lenora Olson, Hazel Jones, Frank Bracken.

for his brother and others. On arriving at this settler's place, his brother Will was amazed to see him, but on opening a letter, found it to be the one telling of Franks coming. His brother had caught up to the letter he had posted several weeks before leaving England.

The next year in February 1909, Frank filed on a homestead directly west of his brothers. (N.E. $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 9 - 47 - 3 - W5) After doing some clearing and starting a log cabin, he left it to work here and there, until in 1914 he came back to his brother's place. He helped his brother and worked on the road for some time until in January 1916 he joined the Armed Forces in Victoria, B.C. Thus ended the dream of homesteading in the West for a number of years.

He was seriously wounded in France in the spring of 1917, losing his right arm near the elbow. By early 1919 he was married to Jenny Wilson, Victoria. He was discharged from the Army and returned to Wenham Valley to file on a homestead a mile south of his brother's. (S.E. $\frac{1}{4}$ 4 - 47 - 3 - W5) Here he built a good frame house, cleared and broke some land and acquired the title to it and another quarter section. In 1926 he sold this farm and lived in Victoria for twelve years.



Frank Jones and brother-in-law Dave Wilson ploughing a field on his farm. 1920

FRANK JONES FAMILY

Frank Jones came to Canada as a young man hoping to find land close to his brother, Will Jones. He was 21, when he left Birmingham, England to begin a long journey by boat and across Canada by train to Wetaskiwin. He arrived in Wetaskiwin in early June 1908 expecting his brother to be there to meet him at the station. Finding no one he knew and after making inquiries, he was directed to the Government Land Office. The agent, after learning Will Jones' address was Battle Lake, told him the location of his land. (N.W. $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 10 - 47 - 3 - W5) As these figures meant very little, he decided he should try and find Battle Lake Post Office first. Luckily he was picked up by a man going to Brightview which was eleven miles to the west. Leaving his bag there, he walked, carrying a blanket, some bread and cheese, and the old muzzle loading shotgun he had brought from England. He slept along the trail that night and next afternoon reached the Battle Lake Post Office. After inquiries, he found his brother's place was fourteen miles farther west, and he was given a ride by a man who was taking the mail on

In 1938 the Frank Jones family came back to Alberta where they bought a cottage at Crystal Spring, Pigeon Lake. They returned to Victoria in 1948, where they still reside. Their daughter, Mrs. Hugh Campbell, lives in Thorsby. Sons Frank and Leslie are in B.C.

Frank Jones and several others were delegates who went to Edmonton to meet C.P.R. officials to persuade them to build the present railroad from Lacombe to Leduc. The town of Winfield was named after Winfield Scott and Breton was named after Douglas Breton. These men and Mark Wenham were all delegates at that time, so credit should be given to everyone who had a part in getting a much needed railroad started in the country.

When Frank Jones and his wife visit their daughter, Margaret, in Thorsby, he often entertains relatives and friends with humorous and amusing tales of events from the early years

of homesteading. One such is the time he stayed at his brother's home alone, while they went to Wetaskiwin. This was the spring of 1910, which was very dry and bush fires got started that swept right through the country. He managed to save his own cabin, his brother's house and barn and Grant's house and buildings to the south.

WILLIAM A. JONES FAMILY

William Jones and wife Enzie, and daughter Elsie came to the Wenham Valley district where he filed on a quarter section of land. Daughters Edith and Willa were born some years later. Elsie married Ben Fletcher, who farmed six miles north-west in the Breton district. Edith married Jim Thorne and has lived in the Calmar area since. Willa lives in Wetaskiwin and is married to John McCoy.

W.A. Jones lived in the Wenham Valley district until 1930, where he acted as Sec. - Treas. for the L.I.D. Columbia No. 460 for a number of years previously. To have a more central point, an office was built at Battle Lake and they bought a home there. During the depression the Municipality was dissolved and affairs were administrated from Edmonton. Soon after, Mr. Jones bought a store at Battle Lake, which they ran until around 1945. Their next move was to Crystal Springs for a couple of years. In early 1947 they moved to Wetaskiwin and Mrs. Jones passed away that fall. Mr. Jones lived in Wetaskiwin until his death in 1966.

The family came to Wetaskiwin early in 1908 and stayed there while Will Jones went fifty miles farther west to locate a suitable homestead. He and another settler, Wallace Grant, decided to take land close together and filed on the N.W. $\frac{1}{4}$ and S.W. $\frac{1}{4}$ 10 - 47 - 3 - W5. The Government Land Office was in Wetaskiwin then.

Mr. and Mrs. Jones were originally from Birmingham, England. They were married in 1902 and came to Canada in 1904, living in Toronto until the Spring of 1908. Will Jones was a carpenter and cabinet maker by trade. Finding conditions so different in Canada and work difficult to find, the glowing stories of the West with its cheap land and work for all lured them into making a move from Toronto.

The men usually left their families in Wetaskiwin or at the P.O. (called a stopping house) while they walked to the homestead. They erected a log house and made it liveable, cut trails to make it possible to get a horse or ox team with wagon and supplies in. From Battle Lake, west, the roads were merely trails, that kept to the higher ground and crossed the creeks where the banks were low enough to construct a pole bridge.

The first home was built of logs that were cut on the homestead. When they moved in, the windows were covered with flour bags, the roof was poles with tar-paper and dirt and beds and furniture were mostly made of poplar poles. Before winter set in, they had finished the floor, put in real windows and made a shingled roof.

A small addition was added as the family grew and they lived in the log house until around 1924. Then a two storey frame house was built where they lived until moving to Battle Lake.

Their closest Post Office was Battle Lake, which was fourteen miles to the south-east. The Ken Hunters kept Battle Lake P.O. for many years and also sold meals to travellers going back and forth to Wetaskiwin. Years later a Post Office called Yeoford was started. It began as a small log cabin used by a freighter, who stopped on his journey from Wetaskiwin to a logging camp fourteen miles on north-west. He could store some feed for the teams and it served as an overnight stopping place. From there, west, it was merely trails so the loads would likely be divided or some left for another trip. After he gave up this place, a family by the name of J.P. Nowells came and took over the land. They were from England and named their store and P.O. Yeoford after a town they knew there. Several years after this a post office called Wenham Valley (named after Mark Wenham) was opened in the Jones' home. The mail was taken out and brought in once a week from Yeoford, so ended the long trip to Battle Lake P.O. The next step was a Post Office to the west, seven or eight miles, at Keystone. This is now the Breton district. Then a twice weekly delivery from Yeoford to Keystone, stopping at Wenham Valley, was started.

The first school was built in the Wenham Valley district around 1913, and was called Modeste Valley No. 2956. It was a frame building and had large windows on the north and south, a brick chimney, and painted a pinky brown color. The inside walls were panelled with brown and white beaver board. Compared to the log houses, it was very smart looking but definitely inferior in comfort. In winter it was almost impossible to hold school in cold weather and was very hot during summer. The first teacher was a Miss Fraser, who had come from the east (Ontario) to visit friends and relations in the district and remained to

teach when the school was built.

The closest store to get any supplies was at Westeros, around twenty miles to the east. Usually several families took turns in taking their horses or ox teams and would bring enough to last all for a good time. It would take two days at least, depending on roads and conditions, so trips were only made when necessary.



William Jones and family by their log house.

A few years after the Jones' and Grant's were settled, quite a number of families moved into the district. This made it necessary to build the Modeste Valley school as there must have been about twenty children among these people. There were the Wenhams, Gambles, Goodhands, Lashways, Williams, Russels, Gillies, Saunders and several young unmarried men who took homesteads in the neighborhood. A brother of Will Jones came from England early in 1908 and filed on a homestead directly west. (N.E. $\frac{1}{4}$ 9 - 47 - 3 - W5) Most of these young men joined the Army when war broke out in 1914, many never returning.

Farming was very difficult in the early years. Most places were covered by heavy brush and trees which had to be cleared by hand and burned. The land was broken by horses and oxen and was a slow process at the best. It was very hard to raise grain then, most varieties

being too slow or late to ripen in the fall and would be frosted. If settlers were lucky enough to have a river flat or meadow, they could grow hay to have feed to winter a few animals. Most of the hay was put up by hand. Even to the cutting, by hand scythes, coiling small haystacks and hauling in later. Most families could raise a fair garden and good potatoes, and had rootcellars for storing these vegetables during winter. Wild berries such as raspberries, blueberries and saskatoons were plentiful and could be canned for winter use.

Water was quite plentiful in the country, a well was quite easily dug, mostly by hand but water could be had about twenty feet down. Many places had springs or flowing wells and had a good supply. The creeks usually were running full of water, in many cases, too much as they would continually wash away the pole bridges.

The prices were very low for food and clothing compared to present times. The best quality flour could be bought for \$2.50 a 100# bag, dried fruits for around \$1.25 for a twenty pound box. A hindquarter of beef for .06¢ a pound, also pork. Good work boots could be bought for less than \$2.00 a pair and prints and flannelette materials around .12 to .15 cents a yard. Lumber and building materials were cheap, but hard to bring in due to lack of roads.

One of the greatest problems was the isolation, especially for the women folk. They might go for weeks without seeing another woman neighbor. Quite often the men would be away working in the logging camps or mills, as it was necessary to make some money for food and clothing.

It was a slow task to get enough land cultivated and grow crops to support any amount of cattle or pigs. The distance from a town, and the fact that the roads were mostly impassible much of the time, could mean disaster in case of a bad accident or serious illness.

When it came to entertainment there was the annual July 1st picnic and barn dance at night. The Christmas Concert was looked forward to, by young and old alike. Each school competed to outdo the other by putting on bigger and better programs. New settlers to the district were always an excuse for a "house-warming party" and it was amazing how so many folk gathered and even danced. Usually some one had a violin or accordian, even mouth organs and combs made music for dancing. When more up to date or affluent neighbors brought a gramophone, the party was really "swinging".

If the weather was dry and windy in the spring and fall, there was always danger of losing a house or building from fire. The fire was usually started by settlers burning brush and trees to clear land and letting it get away. This often resulted in good stands of timber being destroyed before it was brought to a stop.

One of the worst tragedies to strike in the district was the death of a neighbor's two boys. They became very ill and in spite of all that could be done by neighbors, and local mid-



Peter Kortzman Family

Back: Willie, Agnus, Oscar, Frank, Charlie, August
Front: Annie, Peter, Sophie, Ingri, Lena
Taken in U.S.A. about 1900. Still living are Frank at
Tofield and Oscar at Prince George.

wife, they were gone before a doctor could be brought in from Wetaskiwin. When he arrived by horse and buggy he diagnosed the disease as being diphtheria. Everyone in contact with the children was given anti-toxin and luckily no one else came down with the disease.

When the first World War (1914-18) broke out it had quite an affect on the district. Most of the young bachelors joined the services. Will Jones' brother Frank was among those going. Very few ever came back to their homestead, those surviving the war found work elsewhere and gave up their quarters. Some of these places had buildings or some land cultivated, so were taken by a new group of settlers.

Life then, was so very different, and by todays standards, the people had so little. They found enjoyment in the occasional visit to or from a neighbor, in fact, neighborliness was far ahead of today. People seemed to find time to drive a team several miles to visit friends, whereas now, the families jump in the car and drive miles to a lake or to the city to shop.

THE KORTZMAN - YOUNG FAMILIES

by Selma (Young) Labutis

P.J. Kortzman came to Alberta in 1906 from North Dakota, with his wife and nine children. He took out a homestead S.E. $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 30 - 46 - 1 - W5th. Several of the Kortzman boys also took out homesteads in the area, but left. Mr. Kortzman died at the age of 82 from a fall into a well where he was trying to open up the return drain on the well pipe. His wife was blind, so couldn't go for help, and he was there all night. Mrs. Kortzman died in 1936.

The house they built is still standing. Two of the Kortzman boys are still alive, Frank in Tofield, and Oscar in Prince George. There are grandchildren in Edmonton, High River, B.C. and in United States.

Their oldest daughter Annie, married Pete Young (Ljung) about 1913. They had three children, all girls. The oldest died from burns while very small. Selma and Alice still live in the district, Alice on the old homestead of her parents, the place where all three children were born. The original house burnt down in 1969.

We walked to the Cree Valley School. I can remember one year when fires swept the district, and walking from school with tops of the trees ablaze. I don't remember any homes being burnt. When it was very cold we would stop in at Jack Hempstock's place. Mrs. Hempstock was very good to us. They had a big living room in their house and held dances there for the community.

Our father died in 1923, as the result of an accident. His horses ran away and he got tangled in the harness and dragged.



Mrs. P.J. Kortzman with her grandchildren (Charlie's children) Walter and Ina on left, Minnie on right, Pearl on her knee. About 1919.



Four generations of Pete Young family - 1957. Mrs. Annie Young (great grandmother), her daughter Selma Labutus holding Connie Egely, and grand-daughter Dawn Egely.



Mr. and Mrs. Sundquist, Mr. and Mrs. P.J. Kortzman about 1910. Kortzman's were grandparents of Mrs. Selma Labutus and Mrs. Alice Smith

Mother had to carry on alone. I remember Mrs. Hempstock making Christmas for us, and she always gave us things, as well as always making us welcome there. Mother died September 6, 1958 at the age of 76.

I married George Papineau, and had five children, Keast, Dawn, Betty, George, and Dennis. Keast married Louise Gautier, they have three children and live in the district; Dawn married Leonard Egley, they have three children and live in the Vancouver area; Betty married Emil Tribiger, they have three children and live at Battle Lake; George married Diane McLaughlin, have two children, live in Vancouver and Dennis lives in Edmonton. They have one little boy.

I later married Simon Labutis, and we have two children, Victor and Shari, both at home. We live on Simon's Homestead.

Alice married George Kimmy. They had three children, Georgina, Sheila Lynn and Jerry. Georgina is married, lives in Edmonton and has three boys; Sheila (Kim) married Don Rose and lives at Campbell River B.C. and Jerry is out working.

George Kimmy died shortly after Jerry was born. Alice married Wilf Smith and they have one son Danny, who is at home yet. The old Kortzman homestead is now owned by Glen Beath and the house still stands.

GEORGE KIMMY

In the spring of 1925, George Kimmy purchased the S.W. 18 - 46 - 15 from David Eastman and on May 12th moved his family up from Chesterwold, Alberta (which is now in the south-west corner of the Falun district) so he could be with his family, as he had spent all his life since childhood working in the Battle Lake area. He was on many a log drive down the Battle River to Ponoka before there were saw mills in the area. Later he worked in the saw mills and in logging camps around the lake.

After coming to Battle Lake, he was road foreman for a number of years. Work was all done by horses. During the depression years, he interviewed those who needed relief-welfare as it is now known. Most of them worked for their relief money. Mrs. Kimmy along with her children was left to run the farm the best they could.

Mr. and Mrs. George Kimmy had a family of seven children. Myrtle married William (Bill) Young. They had a family of two girls, Muriel and Jean who are both married and live in Vancouver B.C. Myrtle later married Robert (Bob) Garbutt and they live in Vancouver. Wilber married Ella Hempstock and they continued living at the lake. Louis and Elroy never married. They farmed and worked in sawmills for a number of years. They are now at Red Deer. Beatrice married Alfon Gustafson and they had one son, Melvin, who is a member of the Navy. Alfon has passed away. Beatrice later married Clifford Blount and they had one son Donald. They reside in South Burnaby. Doris married Robert (Bob) Thompson. They live at Essondale and have three daughters, Linda and Cheryl, who are married, and Karen at home. Ramona married Gordon Clegg. They live in Port Coquitlam. They had three children, Wayne, Kathrinne and Yvonne.

Wilber Kimmy married Ella Hempstock in 1938 and made their home on the N.E. 13 - 46 - 2. In 1940 they bought the home place, S.W. 18 - 46 - 1, and moved their house onto it, in which they have made their home. They had four children.

Ronald married Marlene Knott and they had one daughter, Meleesa. They were divorced and he married Vina Dole. They had one son, Neil, and one daughter, Diane. They are making their home in Edmonton.

Gayle married Arman Wold. They have one son, Teddy and a daughter, Janeen. They are making their home in Edmonton.

Sharon married Gordon Bleakney. They have one son, Rodney, and they reside in Wetaskiwin.

Wendy works in Edmonton as secretary for the Alberta Motor Association.

Ella was always active in the Battle Lake Ladies Club. Wilber was always willing to help a neighbour out. In the first years of married life, he worked in the sawmill business and farming. Now he has a fine herd of Hereford cattle.

MRS. ALICE KINDIG

Having been raised and married in Seattle, Washington, the thought of farming much less homesteading did not appeal to me. I married Mr. "Mac" McLaughlin in 1907 and decided to try a homestead. Leaving Seattle the first part of April 1912, we arrived in Wetaskiwin, my husband's mother, my son Wallace and I, by train. My brother Jay and my husband went on the train with four horses, wagon and household goods. After several days in

Wetaskiwin, spent packing the hayrack with goods to start housekeeping, we started out for the homestead on a Saturday night, going as far as Paul Dickau's. We stayed there overnight, such wonderful people they were, as we were to find all homesteaders to be. When we came



George Kimmy Family - 1938. Back: Elroy, Wilber, Myrtle, Beatrice, Louis. Front: George Kimmy, Fay Kimmy, Ramona and Doris.



George Kimmy Mill - 1913. Top L. to R.: Casey Ayres, Owen Ayres, Georgia Kimmy, Ernest _____? Bottom: Grandpa Ayres, Austin Ayres.

down for breakfast, it was Easter Sunday, what a sight to behold, a great long table laid out for their large family and us with all the goodies you could imagine. After breakfast we again set out and got lost. That night we arrived at the Charlie Cummings farm. Monday we arrived at the Goodhands at Brightview in time for dinner. Going the Battle Lake road we tipped over our wagon load. We left Mac's mother at Cunningham. Much of our chattles were broken. Wallace and I walked to Bunney's. The men picked up the remains of our load and going through many mudholes, swamps, etc, we arrived after dark. Hansens were glad to see us, our homestead being just across the road from them. We had brought fresh fruit, meat, etc., and the Hansens had been on the homestead for some months and like most settlers lived on rabbit, partridge and prairie chicken meat. Hansens and Ernie Lutso had each built a log house. Ernie put shingles on his house but Hansens put a sod roof on theirs. We stayed with the Hansens as was planned, having been friends in Seattle, some of us slept at Lutso's as he was away looking for work. When it rained, Hansens house rained worse inside than outside, and it was mud and rain. My brother and Mac built us a log house as quickly as possible, putting split shingles on the roof. There were twenty-three families from Seattle at the same time, most in 1911. We were delayed one year in Seattle. I returned to Seattle where our first daughter was born Nov. 1. The last of Nov. I returned to the homestead and found many homesteaders had left and many were preparing to leave, as those that had enough money to leave, left and those that didn't have enough stayed and proved up their homesteads.

During the Christmas holidays, Mac and I and the two children went to visit a neighbor a few miles away, and upon returning home we noticed from a distance, smoke coming from the direction of our home. Mac's mother had stayed home and Mr. Hansen was doing our chores. As we drew closer we could see there was no house where ours should have been and realized our home and contents had burned to the ground. Friends and neighbors and my relatives in Seattle came to our rescue. Neighbors and Mac soon had another house built from logs and with the furniture which we had stored in Wetaskiwin and gifts, we were back living in our own home. We lived at Hansens until our home was built. It was tough going as most of our money was in the house that burned.

As the year rolled around, the neighbors and us decided we needed a post office as the other Post Offices were so far away. Yeoford at that time was near Battle Lake at the foot of what is called Mount Butte with people by the name of Marsden running it. I took the petition around to the homesteaders and got them to sign it for the post office, I had to do this by horseback, due to road or trail conditions, through muskeg etc. After getting the necessary names, the Dept. wanted a name for the Post Office. We sent several names in, one of which was Nob Hill, as there was already a Nob Hill in Canada, they changed it to Knob Hill. The Post Office was at our home as we were the most centrally located, also we were to carry the mail, which I did mostly on horseback in the summer when the roads were bad and by "Jumper" (the front runners of a sled) pulled by a team of horses in winter. People came for miles around

for their mail until another Post Office was obtained at Pendryl. There was no Winfield then, just woods.

In September I was busy canning plums when Mrs. Hansen came and asked if I had seen their son, she had been calling him for some time with no answer. As a rule, little Jimmy would come to our house when he ran away but this day I hadn't seen him so I put plums aside and went to help look for him. Mr. Hansen was cutting brush in another part of the quarter and Mrs. Hansen went to see if Jimmy had gone to him, but he hadn't. I called Mac and word was sent to other neighbors and a real search was started. It was raining a cold dismal rain which hindered hearing, but as Mrs. Bunker and I discussed the matter, we heard a cry so she went and told the men. We searched all around where the cry came from until dark. At daylight Mr. Hansen heard his cry too. Mr. Frank Ward was appointed to head the search. The searchers grew in number and passed the trail where he was finally found dead a few yards away on the fifth day about ten o'clock.

Clearing land and burning brush was the only excitement we had until mid-winter when we had occasional dances and parties. Four years of toil and trying to make enough money to live on, by growing vegetables to sell, things just went from bad to worse and I took our children and went back to Seattle, where I got a divorce. A year and a half later I went back to Knob Hill and later married Jasper Bunney, we lived at Wenham Valley, poor but rich with happiness. Jap (as he was known) and I had five children. We sometimes boarded the teachers and I sometimes did the janitor work.

After the railroad came in, the mail was to be carried from Winfield to Wenham Valley via Knob Hill. I carried the mail for many years but by this time the road conditions were very much improved and I used a Bennett wagon. The winters were tough, many days it was forty to fifty and sixty below, but those large hot rocks at my feet kept me warm for the journey. Many people along the route would ask me to do shopping for them in Winfield, or sometimes would want a ride to shop or to catch the train.

Many wonderful times we had at Wenham Valley. In the days when flu was bad, each would help the other, a district nurse couldn't do it all, even though she did her best, having to travel mostly by horseback. Anytime of the day or night that the nurse was called, she went. Miss Hall was our first nurse and her first case was to lance an abscess on our youngest son's neck and much to her disgust she discovered that there had not been included in her kit any chloroform and her patient had to endure the pain of having the abscess lanced. The abscess was ready to burst inward and had it done so she said it would have killed him. Our dedicated district nurses served many similar and varied cases and received many praises for serving the wilderness areas. The last nurse we had was Saral Elizabeth Smith who married Tostin Heldahl and continued to live in the district and whom we knew saved a life and eased the pain of hundreds far and near.

I delivered some babies when the nurse was away including two of my grandchildren, one was Wallace's son. When Maude was taken sick it was raining and impossible to travel with a car so Wallace came for me to deliver their youngest son. When Janice's son was born, she was at our home and the nurse didn't get there in time.

Our boys were working in the woods or at lumber camps and many accidents happened. Wallace cut two fingers off with the axe and on the same day several miles away, Lue who was a sawyer at a mill, cut off a thumb and part of his forefinger. Clayton Sabin took Lue to Wetaskiwin and the doctor sent them on to Edmonton. Many similar occurrences happened to others in those early days.

Lue and Ruth joined the air force in World War II, then only Bertie and Ivy were home with us. The other children were married so we decided to sell out and move to the coast for our health. Ivy has been ill ever since and Jap hadn't been well for some years. In 1946 he had an operation and a few days later passed away and was buried in Vancouver. I moved to Seattle where I worked for five years. My family lived in Seattle. After this time I married Mr. Kindig and after his retirement we moved to Wetaskiwin to be nearer my children, as all were living in Alberta. In 1960 Mr. Kindig passed away. Ivy and I have been alone since, having taken up hobbies such as ceramics, copper tooling, aluminum etching, lapidary, making jewellery from rocks, including my own gall stones and various other hobbies.

My oldest son Wallace passed away in 1959, his wife Maude (nee Skoglund) went suddenly also. Their daughter Janice died in 1970. Janice and Bill Fredricks live in Killam - retired. Lue married Nellie Thrasher and live in Winfield and run a drugstore and coinwash. Art wed Elsie Jans, lives in Forestburg - farming. Alberta and Ken Elliott are at Blackie,

also Carrie and Bob Jackson, both farmers. Ruth and George Stead live in Black Diamond. This is the Jasper Bunney family in 1971, children and grandchildren and great grandchildren now number seventy.



Mr. Jasper Bunney with his first team on his Battle Lake homestead. He is hauling the logs for the A.C. Bunney home on the shores of Battle Lake in 1903 and 1904.

I can't say "I wish I'd never homesteaded" as it has after all been a wonderful experience even though we worked very hard. I love horses so I loved working with them, ploughing, discing, harrowing, mowing and raking hay. One fall I moved over a hundred tons of hay helping the men where I could. We baled the hay in the winter with a horse baler and sold the hay to sawmills trading for lumber to build our new home.

There's no place better to raise a family of eight children than on a farm. Jap's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Cummings Kunney and family came to their homestead in 1903 and lived in a tent the first year on the shore of Battle Lake with their three sons, Ivo, Jasper and Ben and daughter Madge. Ivo chose to homestead at Vegreville for two years then came and filed on a homestead at Yeoford in 1905.

CHARLES KING

Charlie King and family came from Okmulgee, Oklahoma, U.S.A. to the district in 1911. There were three sons, Charlie, Ernest and John and four daughters, Nellie, Odessa, Willy May and Lucy. Uncle John Burton, brother-in-law, Henry Brooks and Dave Guest arrived at the same time. They settled near the village of Breton, which was the homestead of Mr. Sam Hooks, extending north and north-west for some miles either way. A friend, William, who had previously settled here wrote to Charlie King, Sr. about the homesteads available for \$10.00. With several sons, Mr. King felt this would be a good place to settle. Approximately thirty-five families came on an immigration train as far as Edmonton. Here the families separated, some going to Athabasca, some to Wildwood and others to this district. Household goods and livestock was shipped by freight cars.

Our first homes were log structures with tar paper roofs and slabs nailed at intervals to hold the paper in place. One early home boasted a sod roof. Several homes had smoothly hewn logs for floors.

Around 1925 Charlie King was M.L.A. for the area.

The Keystone post office which was situated on the N.W. $\frac{1}{4}$ of L-48-4-W5 and is now the home of the E.B. Websters, was operated by George Ramsay who came here from Kansas, U.S.A. in about 1908. Later the post office was moved farther north to son Rawleighs' homestead where he continued the post mastership for some years. This location is the present home of Mr. and Mrs. Mark Hooks.

Groceries had to be brought in from Leduc, or a small store located near the now present town of Sunnybrook. Later on, purchases could be made at Buford which was thirty to thirty-five miles to the east.

The first school was Funnell, named for one of the first settlers, Richard Funnell. The school was built in about 1912. The first teacher was a Mr. Smith. The next teacher was Mrs. Odessa King Brooks, daughter of Charlie King Sr.

Neighbours were the Ramsays, Allans, Smiths, Hays, Fords, Ross's, Gordons, John Bells and Stricklands.

All land was fairly heavy to clear. Timber and heavy bush had to be cleared before any farming could be done.

Getting water didn't pose a problem. Shallow wells were easily dug but springs and creeks were prevalent in this area.

Lack of ready cash was the predominant problem, therefore the men found it necessary to seek work during the winter months. Lumber hauled to Leduc brought the sum of \$3.00 a thousand. If trails were in fair condition, one could possibly haul upward of three thousand feet. The round trip taking up to three days to complete.

There was no doctor available within miles and there were no roads.

At first, gatherings in the various homes took place. Later the school was used. There were picnics and ball games.

Bush fires were common. Severe weather in the winter proved hard for the families as well as the stock.

The building of the Shilo Baptist church was an event of interest to the early settlers. The government gave a grant of land to the amount of about ten acres. The church was built of hewn logs, the labor being supplied by the settlers. The first Minister was Mr. Henry Brooks. People would attend church in the morning and in the summer would sometimes gather at home in the afternoon for social get-togethers of singing and visiting.

Neighbours were always willing to help each other. There was always plenty of time for a visit. No one was rushed. There was very little sickness but the necessities of a midwife was supplied by several of the other women with Mrs. Hays and Mrs. Geffery always willing to go wherever needed.

Mr. Charlie King Jr. and wife still live in the village of Breton after many years of farming on the land they took in 1911. They are the only members of this family left living in this district. There are still some of the descendants of the Smiths and Hays living in the area.

Charlie King

HENRY KIRKNESS

Mr. Tipping, Ed Pocha and my father Henry Kirkness in the 1890's or early 1900's, cut a trail in to Buck Lake country. It was for this reason, my father always wanted to go back there. And in 1919, after the war, we travelled by team and wagon out to Buck Lake.

Sometime in between those years, Mr. Tipping had moved his family, a wife and two children; Dalton and Mary, out to Wolf River west of Buck Lake and Ed Pocha had taken up residence on the shores of the lake.

My father filed on a soldier's grant $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles south of the lake. We landed there with a democrat, three horses and our belongings.

We travelled across country from Medicine Hat where I'd been born and raised. After the war, father and mother separated and he took me with him and headed north. The Ned McKay family also travelled with us. Travel was slow with heavy loads and cattle to herd along. There were many experiences encountered.

One evening when the wagons were stopped and threatening clouds were lowering on us, everyone was hurrying to set up camp. I was helping father set our tent up when an extra strong gust of wind came up and blew our tent inside out. It also carried my Dad's hat high into the air like a kite. We never did find that hat. Sometimes I'd ride horseback and tiring of that, I'd ride with Dad.

When we arrived at Ponoka, the cattle had very sore feet. It was decided they would be wintered there. This was late October 1919. Different arrangements were made and it was decided I had to drive our team and democrat while father took over one of the heavy wagons. I was eleven years old and not very big for my age.

However, I felt big and everything went fine the first day. Camp was made by a stream that first night. The next morning after the harness was on the teams, Dad took them down to water them. Well, they all stood on the edge and drank except old George, one that I had to drive. He walked out in the middle and sank out of sight. Then his head popped up and Dad threw a noose around his neck. With the aid of a horse and one of the men, they pulled George out. You never saw such a muddy mess in your life. Dad wiped off some of the muck but he still looked terrible and I cried for miles because I was ashamed I had driven him.

That evening, we came to a stretch of corduroyed road. It was $\frac{1}{2}$ mile long, logs layed crosswise side by side, to make a solid road over a very shaky muskeg. When we started over, at first I thought it was really funny, and I'd look back at the wagon behind me and laugh. But before I was across it was a different story. Seeing all that ground shaking on each side of the corduroy scared me and I was bawling from fright.

We landed at Buck Lake with \$15.00, no hay or oats for our horses. There were a few abandoned homesteads, so each family moved into a house. The McKays lived in Alvin Nyström's log house and Dad and I lived in another log shack $\frac{1}{2}$ mile further on.

That first week Dad went out and got a moose. He also set out a trap line and before long had caught a black fox, a cross fox and quite a few weasels. He took his furs to Edmonton and got \$675.00 which was a god sent gift to us. Now our horses and ourselves could eat.

Our first home was a log house. It burned down the winter of 1926 by an overheated stove. Dad just managed to escape in night attire. I was working in Edmonton at the time.

Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Sabin were running the general store when we first went to

Buck Lake. They also had the Post Office. The first school built at Buck Lake was Maywood School, and the first teacher was a Miss Mast. That was either 1920 or 1921. It was a first time for many of the children who attended school there. The Berg children and Gus Bjur's were some of the first students there.



Lillian Gale Kirkness

this day it annoys me to hear someone chew and snap their gum. I do once in awhile chew gum, but I do it as inconspicuous as possible.

There were some bad forest fires. After I was married, and happened to be home alone one day, I noticed a lot of smoke coming from the west of us. I went over to our fence and could see fire coming through the trees and grass. So in order to save our home, I started a back fire from around the west side of the garden patch. Two of the McKay girls were on their way home from school and they stopped and helped me. It was rather frightening for awhile.

We have everything modern in this day and age. But I believe people were much happier in the old days. Sure, we went through a lot of hardships, but we were better for it.

Our entertainment on a Sunday was young people gathering at one or the other's homes. Playing baseball, riding horseback, swimming, anything that was good clean fun. We didn't need money to do these things. At the dances, during lunch hour when sandwiches, cake and coffee was served, different ones were called on to sing, stepdance for whatever they could do. I don't know how it ever got started, but from the time I was very young, I either had to sing or do the sword dance. And I used to hate doing either one. As I grew older, I'd just sing and never failed to get stage fright doing that.

Mrs. Lillian Gale

Calgary, Alta.

PETER KISS

Peter Kiss was born in Hungary, Europe in June 1905. He came to Canada in December of 1927. He worked in the southern Alberta area near where his sister lives until the fall of 1928. Then he came to the Buck Lake area with his brother Coleman, wife and son. Coleman Kiss bought a quarter of land which was owned by Ebba Wilson, later the Dick Bowen quarter.

Peter filed on a homestead west of Buck Lake in the spring of 1929. No road to it but a trail through the brush caused the need in summer to use hip waders to get to it. But never-the-less, it was land and it only cost \$10.00 to file on it!

The first few years he worked away during the summer months in Southern Alberta. For the C.P.R. mostly and various other jobs.

In 1934 he married Kathleen Siegel. After that he worked closer to home, in logging camps in the winter months and clearing land between times, grubbing out trees and stumps by hand. Pulling stumps out with horses as was done in those years. Needless to say, he had a good teamster and assistant (his wife).

In 1939, he started working for the Department of Highways with



Tom McCurdy's homestead shack south quarter of Joe Lazzo. 1919.

the team, building roads. In winter he would work in the lumber camps, clearing on land as much as was possible between seasons. Clearing, farming and road construction improved after that.

In 1955 he went into Oilfield Construction with a "D7". He had done the odd bit before this, such as seismic lines, roads and trails. But in 1954 and 1955 the Pembina Oil field started up so he got a D7 and that was the beginning of Kiss Construction Ltd.

He has two sons, Peter and Louis, and as they finished school, they went into construction also. At the present time, they are in Edmonton and both in Road and Oilfield Construction. One daughter, Kathy, is in University.

At the present age of sixty-six years, Peter Sr. is still active in farming and construction. He also has a very interesting hobby - "Buffalo".

COME ALL YOU JOLLY YOMESTEADERS - THE BERT KLUCZNY FAMILY.

The Reverend John McDougall, Methodist missionary to Alberta in the early 1860's, mentions his travels from Edmonton to Pigeon Lake, Battle Lake, and Buck Lake, and on to "the Rocky Mountain House". His accounts make highly interesting reading for those of us who have pioneered these areas, but you will search the books in vain for any mention of Yeoford, Winfield, Pendryl, or Alder Flats. In fact, many years later, when we moved into the area in the spring of 1925, Winfield was still an idea in the mind of the railway developers. So were such amenities as roads, busses, telephones, and schools.

Dad and Mom (Bert and Marcella Kluczny) had shipped their effects from the bald and windswept prairie at Empress, Alberta, to Wetaskiwin. Actually, we were, to begin with, among the upper crust of homesteaders because we started out with six horses, which Dad used to freight out our belongings over the eighty odd miles of bush trails to the Sam Weaver place at Pendryl. This chore took up a fair part of that first spring.

One of the interesting sidelights of this phase of the operation was the fate of Dad's prized, "new-fangled" Titan tractor. Although it consisted of many tons of steel and cast iron, it was to form one of the four horse loads out to a new location. However, before he reached Brightview, even Dad came to realize that the project was impractical in view of the condition of the trails. So the Titan was duly unloaded and lovingly parked at the roadside in favor of more urgent cargo. It was to be picked up after fall

Frank Kingzett's Mark 50 Years of Marriage

A couple well known throughout the district, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Kingzett recently celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary.

Mr. and Mrs. Kingzett - she is the former Miss Ethel English - were married on October 2, 1920 when he was a member of the Alberta Provincial Police. For some time they lived at Yeoford, where he was the chief of the detachment there. In 1930, when

the Provincial police were disbanded, Mr. Kingzett joined the Edmonton City Police where he served until 1962. At the time of his retirement, he was Superintendent of Staff. Since retiring, the Kingzets have made their home at Ma-Me-O Beach, where he is secretary treasurer of the summer village.

Two celebrations were held to mark the important anniversary. In Edmonton, friends and relatives gathered for a reception at the King Edward Golden Lion Room. Among those present were

their two daughters, Mrs. Jeanne McVeigh and Mrs. Betty Brandt and their families of Edmonton. Included were their seven grandchildren.

On October 7, the couple was honored by the Ma-Me-O Beach Branch of the Royal Canadian Legion and the Ladies Auxiliary at a social evening. Many of their district friends were there at that time to offer good wishes and congratulations. An engraved silver tray was presented to Mr. and Mrs. Kingzett as a memento of the occasion.

frosts had "paved" the trails. Examination on each subsequent trip, though, revealed that vital components of the machine had "disappeared". I can still remember when Dad finally brought the remnants of his beloved Titan home ----- in two fair-sized cartons.

The Sam Weaver place, when we arrived there in the deepening dusk of an early spring evening, revealed a one-and-a-half story cabin of rough-hewn logs, nestling among tall trees, with the outlines of a barn of nearly equal size about seventy five yards away in the woods. Dad pulled the wagon up in front of the door, let Mom, Harold and me in, struck a light, and then left to un-

hitch and care for the weary horses. We were left standing in the middle of the cabin's large, empty, single room. The walls had been covered with heavy "felt" building paper, in a reddish color. But hold on ----! Was the place really empty? We soon became aware of a lot of sound and movement, and, as our eyes began to focus, we noticed that there were many little openings, in the paper, at which beady-eyed little heads periodically appeared in the dim kerosene light. The mice were understandably disturbed --- and so was Mom.

Mom, who was already over-awed by the size, number, and nearness of the trees, and by the apparent nearness and numbers of the raucously howling coyotes, had just started to gather the two of us to her in the center of the room when a large owl, stationed in a tree right beside the long-empty house, cut loose with his "Hoo -h-ho-ho-HOOOOO0000". That capped it! Mom, who had never heard an owl either, grabbed us, and burst into tears! That's how Dad found us when he got in from the barn -- the three of us huddled in the middle of the room, with Mom in tears, and the two of us boys sleepily wondering what on earth is it all about!

But of course, it wasn't really the "end of the world". In the morning, the work of unloading and settling in kept Mom and Dad busy, and two small boys found plenty of things to explore. I can remember the pride with which I deduced from the dessicated rabbit carcasses on shed roofs, and stuck several feet up in the branches of trees, that bush rabbits, unlike their prairie cousins, could climb trees. The adults all laughed when I proudly announced this "fact". It wasn't until several years later, after I had learned about the "high" in the rabbit cycle, and the depth of the 1924-25 snowfall which had trapped dying rabbits well above ground level that I finally understood the reason for their laughter.

Day by day, even Mom's horizons widened. She discovered that a couple of hundred yards into the woods along one of the paths ran the little creek from which we drew our water supply. The path ended in a narrow footbridge which was inclined to go adrift that rainy summer. Across the footbridge was a tiny clearing which she promptly pre-empted for a garden---which was also inclined to go adrift that rainy summer.

Nearly a half-mile down another narrow trail through the woods, brought her to another log cabin, and our nearest neighbors, the George Strattons. They were a wonderful old English couple whose cabin always smelled of lavender sachets, who always "dressed for tea" each afternoon, and who, by today's standards, were well beyond retirement years when they came out "homesteading". George, with his glistening, bald dome and huge, drooping, bushy moustache, must have stood all of a stooped over five foot two, and had been a London "cabby" in the days of the horse-drawn hansom cabs, but his lack of skill in handling his bay team, Jip and Fly, amazed even us kids. Their staunch, true neighborliness, though, eased our transition into the pioneer area.

As we gradually became aware of the narrow, twisting network of bush trails, we discovered that there were other neighbor families in the district: the Ben Stadys, the Harold Weavers, the Gust Bjurs, Joe Betlaminis, Ned McKays, George Bergs, C.B. Longs, as well as quite an assortment of bachelor homesteaders who sort of came and went.

The Weaver place, though, was not ours. Dad, who could not see a future in buying the relatively high-priced C.P.R. land in the district where my grandparents had decided to settle (now the Thorsby District), had bought the Dixon place, in what was eventually to become the far corner of the Poplar Valley district, and had filed a homestead claim on a nearby quarter-section. So the following spring saw us on the move again. This time only eight or nine miles to the north and east.

The Dixon place featured the typical story-and-a-half cabin of rough-hewn poplar logs, with a single room, again lined with the thick "felt" building paper, and with a steep narrow stairway leading to sleeping quarter upstairs under the steep pitch of the roof. The house was separated from the barnyard by a log fence. The barnyard, which was really wide open to miles and miles and miles of bush, provided a shed of rough-hewn logs which became our chicken house, and a barn of round, peeled poplar logs, the wreckage of which still haunts the old home place with nostalgic memories.

Here the three of us (Walter had been born the summer before, in the old Weaver house) grew up with few of the advantages ---- and few of the disadvantages of "modern civilization". Our neighbors were the Eric Johnsons (about a mile south on the Wilson place). They eventually moved to their own quarter, adjoining us on the south. About a mile to the south east were the Carson Bardenhagens, and the quarter section adjoining us on the east was occupied now and then by Mrs. Bardenhagen's bachelor brother, Jervil Maddox. To the west and north were uncounted miles of unoccupied "bush", which, in the "Dirty Thirties" brought a flood of land-seeking prospective homesteaders. Most of these were rather transient, single young men, who for the most part, came, chose land, possibly did a bit of development, and then abandoned the whole idea. Because we were in the far corner of the district, they would come to our place, and Dad

would take them out to their prospective locations in the bush.

In 1927 the railway construction crews arrived. Mr. I.O. Gibbons, father of Mrs. Lena Tait, and of Winfield's pioneer general merchant, Mrs. S. Sabin, opened a little store near where the railway trestle now spans the Buck Lake-Alder Flats road. Now it was only a one day jaunt to go to town and back. You could even get the chores done in the morning before you left and still have time to do them in the evening after you got back. I can still remember those trips --- with the horses slogging belly-deep in the mud and water along Bardenhagen's place, dragging a wagon that was often axle-deep in the mire. Then through the deep gorge of Poplar Creek (it really was deep then) we treaded on. When you came to the high ground at Lou Hendrigan's corner, you always stared at what must have been just about the only painted set of buildings for miles. Along Bill Steer's place the trail widened out, and you usually trotted the team a bit -- often actually raising a bit of dust in the process. On through Prince's yard was next. They operated a "Stopping place" for a number of years. Past Brown's and Jefferson's place and finally the acres of outdoor horse and mule stalls marked the railway construction camp. No bulldozers, loaders, or dump trucks were used. It was all done by the sweat of men, and mules and horses. Work your way through the construction area and you felt blessed with relief for awhile from the bouncing, jouncing, bone-rattling wagon, while the team had a feed under the pines. You then examined Mr. Gibbons' stock of "goodies". All too soon, though, you had to start back, and go through the procedure again in reverse order, hoping all the way that the cows would be home when you got there, or that you could at least hear their bell.

With startling suddenness, town was right on our doorstep--less than ten miles away. Mr. Gibbons built on the approximate site of Gordon Beatty's present day operation, and moved his store there. Other buildings and businesses popped up with the mushroom growth of "boom town". Almost overnight, Winfield became a rollicking, carousing, lumberjack town, fed by a score or more of mills in the area: Carroll's Drader's, Vicens, Sisson's, Anthony's, Ross & Beard's, Fraser's, and many others. The biggest was Etter & McDougall's but it came later.

Meantime, school became a pressing problem. I turned six that winter, and Winfield began to organize a school that winter. Mike Taylor had built a tiny cabin about where Pete Wald's store now stands. Anna Taylor was a teacher, and there was a shell of a hall down the block. Mom and Dad made arrangements with the Taylor's and I bunked in with Murray, and we tried it for a month. It did not work out for me. It was too far, and too cold, for the folks to come in regularly, so I returned home at the end of the month. But in the meantime, the first regularly scheduled train arrived in Winfield. Mrs. Taylor dismissed us so that we could stand outside and watch it, since the three Larson children never saw a train.

The pioneer era did not really come to a close with the coming of the railway, but I suppose it did enter a new phase. The next year, a school appeared at Pendryl (still too far for me), and the road was graded all the way to Pendryl with such noted "skinners" as Ned McKay driving the eight and twelve horse teams needed to pull the grader. After that, it wasn't long before the odd motor vehicle began to appear, mail came regularly into Winfield, where Mr. S. H. Carter kept the post office in a slab covered shack not far from the present post office site. Trips to town became almost weekly affairs, and netted you a few grocery staples, along with the mail, which always included the current issue of the Free Press and Prairie Farmer Weekly complete with Little Orphan Annie and Moon Mullin, AND the weekly installment of the serialized novel. The mail order catalogues began dictating fashions. You even started to bring home "junk mail". Civilization arrived!

Ed Kluczny

HERMAN KNECHT

Having lost his estate in Heidelberg, South Germany after the first World War, he came to Canada by steamship on June 15, 1927. He filed on land N.E. 30 - 46 - 5 - 5 and had walked the last part of the way. Here he built a log house and this is still his home.

Mr. Tipping of Minnehik was the first postmaster and Mrs. Sabin had the grocery store. Minnehik was named by the Cree Indians and means Spruce in English.

His first neighbors were G. Dewitt, H. Hellervik, Wm. Brown, Pete Nelson, Calhouns, O. Horndorf, Heighingtons, Yalmar Bjur and E. and O. Rice brothers.

Herman tried putting in a crop four times, twice it was dried out and twice the rabbits got it. Spruce Hill was the nearest school.

KNOB HILL P.O.

The Knob Hill P.O. was opened in the C.B. McLaughlin home in 1912. In 1916 it was moved to Bunker's store. It then moved to the John Stone family home in 1926 where it stayed until its closure by postal authorities.

FISHER HOME P.O.

The Fisher Home P.O. opened in 1908 with John Lee as postmaster.

MR. AND MRS. JOSEPH KRYSTA

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Krysta and five children, John, Sophia, Mike, Mary and Stanley arrived at Buck Lake early spring of 1921, locating on Sec. 24 township 45 range 6. They came by train from Lethbridge and spent the winter of 1920-21 in Wetaskiwin.

Mr. Krysta decided to homestead to get away from work in the coal mines. They came from Wetaskiwin with team and wagon, and Mrs. Krysta recalled walking many miles to lighten the load for the horses.

They built their first home of logs and their first Postmaster was Wilbury Wilson, of Minnehik. The name of the first teacher that they could recall was Bell Summers although she was not the very first. She taught in the little school south of Charlie Parker's homestead. Their first store was on the old Tom Clary place and owned by Mr. Gibbons Sr.

Early neighbors were Charlie Matousik, Tony Matuna, O.F. Larsson, Charlie Parker and Ned McKay, Bill Siegel, Wilbury Wilson and Mr. Stout.

Farming conditions were very poor. There was poor equipment and very bad roads, early frosts and short seasons. The water supply was fair as creeks were high.

Mike recalls being sent to the store for something to put on bread for sandwiches. He came home with a 10 lb. pail of blackstrap molasses which had to be used. Now, more than 40 years later, he can't stand molasses.

Entertainment was mainly house parties and picnics.

One storm was well remembered as the wind was so strong it took the roof off the O.F. Larsson's house. Far more neighborliness in those days was shown.

GEORGE KOHUT

I came to Canada from Hungary and worked in East Coulee Alta. until 1932 when I came to Alder Flats district and settled on the S.E. 6. 6. 46. 5. quarter. I build my first house in 1933 out of logs. My wife and two boys Matt, aged 7, and Bill, aged 5 came from Hungary in April 1934. I was not able to hire anyone to come out to Alder Flats to bring the family home for me. The boys went to Buck Lake School, which was no easy thing to do as there was no road, just a bush trail, muddy most of the time. Our third son Allan was born in 1941. On Jan. 1, 1944, we moved to Alder Flats hamlet and operated the Mountain View Store until 1959 when we sold it to Ernie Lee. Allan went to school at Alder Flats. I bought another farm in 1946, from Adamsons, N.E. 22. 7. 5. and spent some of the time there experimenting in raising different kinds of fruits and growing flowers.

Son Matt married Nancy Bodnaruk in 1946. They have three children and one grandchild and live in Calgary. Bill married Kathleen Pye in 1950 and they have six children and live in Wetaskiwin. Allan married Muriel Lyon and has one son. Allan also lives in Wetaskiwin.

We now live in the hamlet of Alder Flats, retired but kept busy with many hobbies. I still raise flowers, experiment with apple trees and many other fruits, and make hand carved picture frames and willow baskets from local grown willow.



Geo. Kohut and 1st home. 1933.



Bill, Mrs. Geo. Kohut, Matt.

- 1934 -

FRED KROGH

Fred Krogh, born near Garfield, Washington, and his wife Anna (Mooney), Krogh, born at Brokenbow, Nebraska, immigrated to the Lacombe area in 1925 and to the Pendryl area in 1927 where the three youngest of their seven children were born. In 1936 they returned to the Moscow, Idaho area. Fred died at Clarkston, Washington in 1963 and Mrs. Anna Krogh died at Clarkston, Washington in May, 1971. Their seven children live throughout Idaho, Oregon and Washington.

A few yarns about Fred Krogh and his family as remembered by the oldest girl, Sandy Tucker:

I could be off a year or so on these dates for its a long time to remember back over forty years just exactly when something happened. But I believe my dad moved us all to the homestead the winter of 1928, and it was rather tough going for a few years then. The following winter Dad and my oldest brother got a job hauling rough lumber from the mills around Buck Lake into the planing mill at Winfield. It was a two day trip for them each time as they would go get the lumber from the mill the first day and then on to the planer the next morning. Dad had four horse loads and my brother drove the smaller one pulled with just two horses. It was very cold that winter and when they would get home, the teams would be covered all over with white frost until you couldn't tell what color the horses really were. Lots of nights when they got in the men would be so cold their fingers would be numb and they could hardly unhitch the horses and get the harness snaps undone. So my younger brother Bill and I were elected to be their chore boys and we would go outside often and listen for them to come when it was about time for them to get home. You could hear the squeak of the horses hoofs on the packed snow and the harness jingle for a mile or more on a still night, and we would have our wraps on and be ready to unhitch and put their teams in the barn so they could get in the house and thaw out a bit. Mama used to keep a pot of mulligan stew on the back of the stove that was always ready no matter if they were a bit later than usual and it was mighty good stuff to warm a cold person up in a hurry. Cold weather and storms seldom kept them at home for the lumber hauling because that was what kept the wolf from our door in those days.

At the time, Dad was renting a place just west of Pendryl that we lived on and the owner, Bill Taylor, stayed there with us part of the time. Another bachelor neighbor, John Anderson, would come over and the two old friends would play cribbage by the hour to pass the long evenings away. Both of them were nice to us kids and taught us to play the game too as there was no school in the winter for us to attend.

Later on in 1936 Dad was logging up north of his own place several miles and the family went along for the winter and lived in some very poorly built shacks. He had a small crew of men working and Mama cooked for them all. That is where my youngest brother Chris was born on a cold March day and my mother nearly died for Chris weighed 14 pounds at birth and it took a long time to go fetch the nurse from her house at Pendryl. But they did both survive the ordeal and today Chris is a mailman in Portland, Oregon which I am sure is an easier way to make your living than logging with horses back in the lean years while homesteading.

Dad was a very hard working man and besides the 80 acres of land he cleared and broke on his own homestead, he took his horses and breaking plow and opened up many fields for other people too. Sometimes he was lucky and was paid cash for his work but many times he traded for hay, lumber or something else he had need for.

Before he had hardly got the house we lived in built, it almost became a casualty. This was back in about 29 or 30 and it was the day of the picnic the Pendryl district put on each year. This time it was held at the end of the range line road where it joins the main road going from Winfield to Buck Lake. It was quite flat there and a good place to have the ball games and races, plus lots of pine trees to picnic under and tether the horses, which was our means of transportation then. I had taken my small sister with me to the picnic and we rode one of the horses since I hated walking like sin. All went well until about supper time we saw storm clouds appearing on the horizon, so we two kids got on our pony and started the mile and a half jaunt home. He had only gotten a mile when it started to rain so we thought we would stop in at a neighbors house until the rain let up. He was not at home and by then it had started to hail and blow like fury so we dashed out to the barn for shelter, got both our pony and selves in side where we crouched in a manger terrified at the noise the storm was making. It didn't last very long and when we went outside to look, there were big trees uprooted all around the place. Many that were left standing had limbs broken off and it was a mess all around the yard. We went on home and when in sight of our house could see the folks and the neighbor whose place we had taken shelter in, standing in the yard looking up at the house. On coming closer, we could see it was leaning over quite far at the top and not a window left unbroken in it. The

hail stones which were as large as hens eggs had done a good job breaking out the windows and the wind had nearly tipped our house over that day. It took Dad a lot of hard work to get it pried back straight again and repaired. Later we heard that most of the people at the picnic had gone half a mile to the school house for shelter. Some folks think that is what saved the school from being blown over too, the fact it was so weighted down with people it kept it on the ground and safe from the winds. That was my first experience with a cyclone or twister, whichever it may have been, and I hope to see no more of them. But the pioneers were very hardy people in those days for as I remember they went right ahead and held the dance as usual in the school that night and everyone had a great time. I was very surprised when my folks allowed me to go back for the dance that night after all the excitement had died down, but a happy girl for the picnic day dance was quite important to the young people then, we didn't have too much else for entertainment going for us.

Alfred, the oldest boy was a pretty good hunter and did very well at keeping wild meat on the table. This was a blessing for we couldn't afford to kill any of the few cattle we managed to raise the first few years on the homestead. And deer and moose were quite plentiful then in the woods near by so we didn't wait for the season on them to open if we needed meat. In the winter months there was plenty of white fish in the lake for anyone who cared to put a net though the ice and catch them. .

Mother and Dad have both passed on now but I know Dad's heart always stayed with the people and Alberta country right to the end.

JACOB KRAMER By Hedrene Kramer

Jacob Kramer, the son of Anthony Kramer was born at Budweis, Bohemia, on April 26th, 1871. His father was a weaver. All relatives had trades as well as land on which to raise feed for their livestock, grain for flour, rape seed for oil, hemp and flax for cloth and oil. They all objected to the Austrian army draft.

In 1879, when Jacob was seven years old, his father and family, five brothers and other relatives emigrated to Nebraska. In 1881 Anthony Kramer settled his family on a homestead near Atkinson, Nebraska. Jacob the youngest child by Anthony's first wife, resented his stepmother, and left home at an early age. He lived a colorful life in the wide open wild west and enjoyed many interesting experiences. When the agent of a near-by Indian reservation, had embezzled their cash allowances for a long time (instead of punishing the guilty agent) the hungry natives helped themselves to the cattle of the innocent settlers, which resulted in Indians being shot by the owners. Buffalo Bill was called in to settle the trouble, oust the agent, and pay damages. He hired Jacob and other young lads at 25 cents per day to dig any graves that may be needed, and not to shoot Indians at 25 cents a head, as has here-to-fore been jokingly told to his grandchildren.

Anna Maria, daughter of Bernhardt and Marian Seger was born at Friesenheim, Baden Germany, January 29th, 1869. In 1893 she emigrated to Omaha Nebraska to join her brothers Joe and Leopold, and her younger sister Sophie. Joe owned a harness making business at that time. Later, she went to Atkinson, Nebraska to nurse her motherless cousins, the Segar boys who were down with typhoid fever. Some of her uncles and other relatives had emigrated to Illinois, Iowa and Nebraska, as early as 1840. One of them bought land at Atkinson over a hundred years ago. Another lived at Chicago at the time of the 1871 fire. Her grandfather Seger and grandmother had emigrated to the U.S.A. but her father Bernhardt Seger had remained in Germany.

Jacob Kramer and Anna Seger were married at Atkinson in April 1895, and lived on a farm, where Hedrine, Victor, Blanche and Joe were born. They moved to Canada in 1903 and settled on a homestead 10 miles west of Hobbema where Paul, Clara and Ernest were born. Anna, who was born and raised in the Black Forest, had always longed for a place with trees. The kids loved the wilderness and native fruits. They also picked strawberry leaves, raspberry leaves, black currant leaves and wild peppermint for tea, and dandelion roots for coffee which tasted delicious with good rich farm cream.

In 1909 they sold their homestead and moved to Hobbema, where they had bought a large building across the tracks from the depot, in which they opened a store and ran the Post Office. They were soon ordered to take their building off the C.P.R. lands. They moved to the reserve at reasonable rent to start with. The rent kept getting higher each month. They were expected to pay \$200.00 rent on treaty day. Luckily, lots were then available at the present town site. They bought a couple of them, and later the whole town site. There was a large muskeg (later No. 2 highway) between the depot and the town site. Highway No. 2 was on the east side of the tracks on the Indian reserve from Ponoka to Hobbema, and crossed the reserve west of the tracks from Hobbema to Wetaskiwin. The bad spots on the road across the tracks, were always kept muddy enough so you could not get through and had to hire help. The old

freighters referred to it as the "Block and tackle flats". The Kramer kids attended the Mission school.

When in 1939, members of the Kramer family and friends were out for blueberries, huckleberries and low bush cranberries in the Buck Lake area, they fell in love with the country and homesteaded here.

Jacob and Anna Kramer, who were bankrupt, moved to their new homestead in 1931. They had hoped to be able to collect in small amounts, some of the money owing them for grocery, but the depression had no doubt hit their debtors too. At 60, Jake got up early every morning and cleared land with an axe (he had no money for hiring a brush cutter). He borrowed a team and plough and returned help for the use of it. He cleared and broke more land as time went on. They started with a cow and calf, but the herd also increased.

Jacob died May 12, 1956, aged 85 and Anna died March 16th, 1959, aged 90. They had seven children and 23 grandchildren at the time of their deaths. There are now 69 living great-grandchildren and several great-great-grandchildren.

All the children remained in this province. Victor married Kathryn Hagemann of the Ponoka district in July of 1922, and moved to Heisler in 1926, where he was employed as grain buyer. Due to ill health he quit in 1966. He had also been mayor of Heisler for six years. They moved to Camrose in 1970, where he died September 30th, 1971. Their union was blessed with five children, 14 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Blanch married Frank Stewart. They moved to their homestead at Buck Lake in 1931 but Frank continued with his seasonal job as maintainer operator until his death in 1952. They had four children. Blanch lives on the home place, which is now owned by a son.

Joe married Leah Fenske of the south Edmonton area. He bought the store with borrowed money, when his dad left, and with the help and good management of his wife, struggled through the depression. They have three children and six grandchildren. They have sold their store to their son Jacques and Bertamini.

Paul married Albertine Bergen of Wetaskiwin. They moved to their homestead at Buck Lake in 1931. They have been operating a post buying, sharpening, peeling, treating and selling business for the last twenty-five years.

Clara married Daniel S. Mitchell, who died three years ago. They had three children. She is now retired and living in Edmonton.

Ernie married Iva Baker of the Ponoka area in 1930. They have a home at Buck Lake, and he has a seasonal job as towerman with the forestry. Their union was blessed with eight children and 37 grandchildren.

As the store did not bring enough money for a good living in the early days, Jake and friends went muskrat trapping at Buffalo Lake, Dried Meat Lake and other lakes east of Hobbema. He and son Victor once started by boat down the creek at Pigeon Lake and the next time from Battle Lake, down the Battle River, through the west country and Ponoka, and through Hobbema to Dried Meat Lake.

THE LABUTIS FAMILY

Simon Labutis was born in Lithuania in 1898 and grew up there. In 1928, he joined those who were streaming out of the country in search of a better life, and sailed for Canada on the ship Lapland, the same one as Mr. Pete Morkunas. Arriving in Canada, he found jobs hard to get and the pay poor. He worked in a steel mill in the East. They had a unique method of hiring workers. There was a heavy steel fence around the mill, outside of which thronged the many jobless. The employers would throw tickets over the fence and those fortunate enough to grab one had a job. He also worked for farmers.

Coming west he took out a homestead, the N.E. $\frac{1}{4}$ 34 - 46 - 2 - W5th. He worked for Mr. Snell in the bush cutting logs and skidding for $1\frac{1}{2}\text{¢}$ a log. Some were $1\frac{1}{4}\text{¢}$.

Before the camp was built, the men slept in the hay stacks which were kept at the logging sites for feeding horses. Of necessity they slept in their heavy clothes to keep warm. There were no washing facilities. In the morning breakfast was brought out to the men, and consisted of porridge with very watered down canned milk, and coffee of a sort. The poor living conditions, combined with the hard work and low pay made week days grim. Saturday night however, brought a chance to forget. Those of the same nationality gathered together, ate, drank home-brew and were merry for a night and a day, but were back on the job again Monday.

Later, Simon worked for \$14.00 a month cutting tamarac rails for fence posts. These he hauled as far as Wetaskiwin with horses. He also traded fence posts for a pig for food. With much hard work he cleared and broke the land of his homestead and built house and barns. In 1948, in response to a plea from his nephew, he paid the necessary \$360.00 for a ticket to bring Ozzie over and agreed to a job for a year.

Ozzie had been born in Lithuania and was a youth there when German armies swept over the tiny country in 1940. He was drafted into the German Army. Following the war he was brought to England with a group of other displaced persons. He recalled that he had an uncle living in Canada. With the aid of the Red Cross, Simon was located, and Ozzie wrote to him requesting his assistance. He worked with Simon for a year then went to work in the mine at Cambria, in the Drumheller - East Coulee area. From there he went to Coaldale and worked for a while. As the coal mining industry was rapidly declining and the oil industry beginning to boom Ozzie left the mines and went to work on the rigs. He married Jennie Morkunis and in 1958 they bought her father's farm and settled down to farming. They have three children, Stephanie, Deanna and David.

Simon married Selma Papineau and they have two children, Victor and Shari. They are still living on the original homestead.

People can talk about the good old days but when Simon thinks of the old days, he is much happier with the present.

LACZO FAMILY By Joe Laczó

I arrived in Canada from Hungary in 1929, February. My uncle had a farm in southern Alberta not too far from Lethbridge. I found work around my uncle's neighborhood. In 1931 my three cousins and myself decided to come up north to some homestead. We headed for Buck Lake where my aunt had two brothers, Coleman and Peter Kiss. After many days, walking in muskeg, and over wind falls, we all picked out suitable land for ourselves. Some times our feet didn't touch any ground for many rods, because we had to jump from windfall to windfall.

In 1933 I got a job with Etter McDougall's saw mill. I stayed with them until they shut down in 1951, which means I was there for 19 years.

In 1942 I got married to Dolores Becker. We now have five children. Donnie married Shirley Cartier. Donnie has a farm of his own, and is employed with Canadian Delhi Oil Company. Donnie and Shirley have three children of their own. Dale has his farm at Bluffton and has married Rose Herman. They have two children. Pat, my oldest daughter, married Ron Harden and lives on a farm at Millet. They also have three children. Shelby is taking gas technology at NAIT in Edmonton. Our youngest child, Vicki, is still at home taking her grade twelve.

In 1948, I sold my homestead because it was too far out at that time. There was no road at all, just a bush trail. The closest railroad was 30 miles away.

Finally in 1944 the company transferred me to the planer mill and I worked there until everything folded up. Then we moved out to the farm on which we now live, in 1951.

For the next two years I didn't know what to do. I didn't know if I should depend on the income of the farm or if I should keep on working as a power engineer. I got work in Edmonton with Burn's Food Ltd. I worked there for 13 years and 7 months. During this period, I didn't miss any time for any reason. Now that was a record! Finally I reached the retiring age in 1966, and since that time I have stayed home on my farm steady. In 1968 I broke my leg, and cannot do too much work. Now I have given up farming. My oldest son, Don, does my farming.

In my younger years, I played for most of the dances. At that time most of the dances were benefit dances for nursing homes, school houses, and stampede grounds. The music was free, so the money that was made was used to buy things. Now I meet couples, which I played for their wedding dances and remember those good old frontier times.

STORY OF ONE GERMAN PRISONER•told to Joe Laczó.

A 16 year old youth attending school in Sask. and living with his parents there in 1939 decided to return to Germany where the boy was conscripted at once on arrival and sent to Africa where he was captured by the Canadians, made a prisoner of war and so ended up back in Canada. He was one of the group that were sent here to work at Etter McDougall's lumber camp until his release in 1945.

LAPLACA FAMILY

My parents, Mr. and Mrs. Nencio LaPlaca, three brothers and three sisters and I, lived in the coal mining town of Bellevue Alta., which is ninety miles west of Lethbridge. Due to the depression things were rather slow in the coal mines so in 1930 my father, Nencio LaPlaca, along with Mr. J. Schieffert, decided to go out in search of homestead land and would up in finding a homestead in the Winfield area (one mile south of Norbuck). My father homesteaded the S.E. $\frac{1}{4}$ of 27 - 46 - 4 - 5 and Mr. Schieffert homesteaded the quarter directly to the south of my father's quarter section.

In the fall of 1930, Mr. Schieffert, along with his family, moved to Winfield by freight car, along with his settler's effects, comprised of four horses (two of which belonged to my father) and what earthly possessions they had. Due to the severe winter at Winfield in 1930-31, they lost all four horses with black-water disease.

I must mention that the Schieffert quarter is now owned by Mr. Gordon Johnson of Winfield.

My father spent the spring, summer and fall of each year for two or three years on his own, making improvements to the homestead, returning to Belleview for the winter months.

In the spring of 1934, I along with my father and brother, Jim, made my first trip by freight train to Winfield. Riding freight trains in those days was the only way of getting from point to point, unless one walked.

Back to the homestead - our days began at 5:30 a.m. After a hurried breakfast, it was out to work until dark and then supper and to bed only to go through the same routine the following day.

Due to the lack of horses and equipment and above all, that green stuff - money - all the land clearing had to be done by hand. Brushing was done with a double bitted Swede axe (God forbid the hornets). The stumps (of which there were many - large and small) had to be dug around with a grub-hoe and shovel to expose the roots and the roots chopped away with axes. The stumps then had to be pried loose with long pry poles and then pried out of the hole and then rolled by hand into piles for burning. The rails and posts for the rail fences had to be transported on ones shoulders, then came the task of driving the sharpened posts with a fourteen pound maul from a high stool. We were fortunate in having a real good neighbor, Mr. Art Jones, who homesteaded the N.W. $\frac{1}{4}$ 26 and who did the land breaking for us with his teams of horses.

Our water supply came from a creek which runs through our quarter section and drinking water was had from a spring.

Many of the residents who are now in their late forties and mid fifties will remember the old swimming hole on the creek. This swimming hole was just a short distance from our log cabin. It was one of the few swimming holes in the area those days and was frequented by the Warners, Schiefferts, Joneses and many more.

Besides homesteading, my brother James and I worked in the saw-mills and logging camps in the Winfield area for A. Burrows at Norbuck, D.L. Fraser Ltd. at Fraser, Carroll Bros. at Winfield. Although I did not work for Etter-McDougall, my brother, Jim, did. I drove a team of horses at the Carroll Bros. mill in Winfield, about the same time that they built their first lumber carrier (known to all, in those days at Winfield, as the monster) in their shops. This machine was used to haul lumber from Carroll's planer mill to the loading platform at Winfield.

Mrs. Conradson and her daughter, Doris, ran a boarding house, in those days, at Winfield and a few of us boys from the mill used to eat our meals there. Mr. and Mrs. Samuels had a restaurant in Winfield. During the early 1930's Mrs. Samuels was a registered nurse in Winfield and handled compensation cases.

I recall that eggs in 1934-37 could be had at Mrs. Sabins' General Store in Winfield at a nickel a dozen. If I remember correctly, most of these eggs were brought in by the homesteaders and exchanged for such staples as flour, sugar and salt.

The quarter west of us was homesteaded by Stan Balchevik and the quarter south of us was homesteaded by a Mr. Nickilson. The quarter east of us, the Hudson Bay quarter, is now owned by Many Sherwood.

I don't recall ever having had any encounter with wild or strange animals, but the mosquitoes and no-see-ums made up for them. One had to use smudges outside the cabin and also smoke out the cabin before bedding down for the night. One could frighten off or beat off wild animals but one had a heck of a time trying to fight off mosquitoes and no-see-ums for in those days there were no repellants and if there was, one couldn't afford them.

A. LARSON FAMILY by Julia Seefried

My parents, Mr. and Mrs. A. Larson, along with their 5 children, moved from east of Bawlf Alberta near the Gladstone district, where they had rented land after coming from Sweden 11 years before that. They moved to Alder Flats in 1936. Dad, at the age of 50, decided to go homesteading at Alder Flats in July of that year. He built a log house on a hill overlooking the valley west. You could see the Rocky Mountains; a lovely view to see. Their three oldest children started off to school at Alder Flats. Lars was in Grade 6, Julia in Grade 4 and Agnes in Grade 2. The twins, Norma and Norman, were yet to start. In the spring of 1938, Dad and Mom had real tough luck. They lost cattle and four of their children, Julia, Norman, Norma, and Agnes had scarlet fever. They lost one of the twins, Norman, at six years old and nearly lost Norma too had it not been for Mr. Fred Shimkie (minister of the Mission Church) who traveled by foot to Pendryl to phone Wetaskiwin to get a doctor out. Helen Garfield, our dis-

trict nurse, worked very hard to save little Norma. This all took place in April when there was mud all over and it took until 3 o'clock in the morning for the doctor and nurse to arrive with Mr. Shimkie. The doctor at that time was Dr. Gardner of Wetaskiwin.

We survived the years by raising our own garden, shooting wild meat and picking the berries. We, along with other families, lived on \$7.00 a month relief which not very much to feed a family of six on. Dad worked in the winter for the sum of \$25.00 a month. I remember I too worked for low wages of \$5.00 a month doing chores, hauling feed etc. If it hadn't been for Mom being able to use the sewing machine and fix the hand me downs (she also spun and knitted all our socks and mitts) I don't know what would have become of us.

My brother Lars used to make his small bit of spending money by shooting squirrels and trapping other fur bearing animals.

Anyway, my Dad is 86 years old July, 1972 and Mom is 75 in October. They live at Peace Hills home at Wetaskiwin.

Helen Garfield, now known as Helen Sabin, was district nurse at Alder Flats at the time of our scarlet fever disaster. After, she married Clayton Sabin and was district nurse at Winfield.



Mr. and Mrs. A. Larson of Alder Flats standing beside the spruce hedge he planted. The log house he built is in the background.

THE LARSON FAMILY - by Linnea (Larson) Hallinn

Our parents originally came from Sweden to Wetaskiwin in 1904. We arrived at Knob Hill, from Wetaskiwin, in 1914, and lived with my mother's bachelor brother, Pete Pierson, until a log cabin could be built on our own place. We moved into it that fall. Now we were permanently settled on the S. E. quarter of section 15, township 46, range 3, west of the 5th meridian. Our home had two large rooms, the one was partitioned by curtains into three bedrooms, the other served as kitchen, living room, winter workshop--there seemed to be no end to its uses and always there was room! Here around a large round table, six of us sat down to meals. My oldest brother, Lars E. was 13, Ted was 11, Elsie $1\frac{1}{2}$ years of age and I was $6\frac{1}{2}$ when we moved to the homestead. Our parents spoke Swedish to us and we to them, between ourselves we youngsters used the English language. The English was also used when guests were present as both mother and father understood it and could read it also. We also had many Swedish customs in our home -- as well as Swedish baking and cooking.

Our land was a homestead and we were first to occupy it. Don Stannard owns it now. He purchased it from my brother Lars.

Since I was only six when my folks moved to Knob Hill, and I left there when I was seventeen, I couldn't contribute much about the early history of the community. Many others are better qualified to do this. I did return home each year to spend my holidays and for three years during mother's last illness. I am still very interested in Knob Hill and enjoy every moment when I have a chance to again visit familiar spots so rich with memories from the past. West Lake, for instance, meant something special to both my brother Ted and I. There are so many happy memories connected with that little lake, hidden, at the time we knew it best, by tall timber and reached only by a trail you could ride a sure-footed horse over. Our school horse, Bob, could nimbly walk the two or three rails laid down to provide a solid (?) footing over the last bit of bog.

There were no hardships in travelling really, only minor hindrances, such as the seven gates that had to be opened in the mile between the Bunkers and our place! A cross-cut or Swede saw was standard travelling equipment as windfalls were forever falling and it always seemed they chose the road to fall across. Wagons sometimes got mired down but somehow were always gotten out again -- they were hard to come by so you couldn't just sit there and let them disappear even after unhooking the team. Then of course the road was mended with brush and rails so you could safely get back home again later. Being splashed with mud, hit by overhanging branches, and generally bounced about were among the lesser evils of summer travel -- but just getting out, going somewhere, was such a treat that you really didn't notice --- much. Being stung by wasps wasn't nice but much better than having the horses bit. And always there were wild flowers in profusion and everywhere there were birds. These are what we now remember.

Our first barn was built of logs and roofed with rails, bark and sod. This took care of our cow, her calf, a team of horses and other things. Another long log building with a low roof had three partitions and three separate entrances. The west door led you into the shop, with its bunk built along one side and an old cook stove for heat. This had been Dad's living

quarters while building the house. It later served many useful purposes. In the winter the stove was a real boon as here the boys skinned and dried the hides of the animals they trapped -- weasel, lynx, coyote, fox, squirrels, and yes, skunks. At times, muskrats were even trapped but never beaver as I recall it. It may have been illegal to trap them. The middle door led into the chicken house. Our original flock numbered less than a dozen but to offset this, several large horned owls lived in a large cage the boys built in one corner of the house. I recall no commotion from either side of the stout bars that separated them -- maybe it would be more accurate to say because of the bars as chickens and owls are not natural friends. However, our chickens were city raised and in their innocence, probably didn't realize the potential danger from these strange birds. In the spring, the owls were given their freedom and maybe years later some wise old owl told his descendents of how he spent a winter in absolute luxury, with fresh meat provided daily, without so much as a hoot from him. "Oh sure, those good old days," we can hear his grandchildren hoot. The third door at the east end of the building took you into -- well, it's known by various names, but in actuality it housed the "outdoor plumbing." Since it did not stand in traditional loneliness somewhere at the end of a path it was a source of confusion to visitors. And here we come upon a real sign of the changed time. Now anyone wanting to know it's whereabouts would simply say "Where is it?" -- such candor was unthinkable when we were youngsters.

We went to Seattle School. My first teacher was Mr. Ben Bunney, for a short time. Then Nellie Rule and all I remember about her was that she was beautiful, wore white blouses with bright red and blue ties. Her niece was nursing in the Wetaskiwin hospital about twenty years ago. Her aunt was living at that time but I have forgotten her married name.

Our water supply came from a dug well -- 50 feet deep. We hauled it up with a windlass. The bucket was weighted on one side of the handle to tip it when it reached water. The bucket itself was a heavy one and when you let go of the handle it went down fast, with the handle spinning. That is, the handle of the windlass! This stuck out about a foot, was made of birch, and being hit by it could do you no good. When you finally got your bucket of water hauled up, you had to hold the windlass handle with one hand and reach for the dangling bucket with the other. After this had been successfully accomplished, twice, you had two water pails full and ready to take to the house. This just meant to carry them up a slight incline and around a small pond and then up again to the house. The water from the pond mentioned was only fit for watering the garden or washing muddy boots. It was water left over from winter snow and added to by summer rains. A home for frogs, tadpoles and teeming with the most interesting bugs was all it actually was.

My brother Ted's illness when he was 19 was our most serious worry. He had rheumatic fever and pleurisy. Dr. Sweeney from Wetaskiwin came out in his model T on a cold December day and took Ted to the hospital there. Before leaving, he said to mother that if they could get him alive there, there was a hope to save him. Ted had his 20th birthday in the hospital, Christmas Eve. By then we knew he was getting better.

Wild animals were abundant - yes, wild ones. The strange ones arrived more recently with television. Tracks we were always able to identify - thanks in part to the Family Herald as it was one of the most subscribed weekly newspapers.

SPINNING WHEEL - Lars Larson - Yeoford

After wool was carded, many hours were spent making it into yarn. The round card of wool was deftly stretched into many times its length, then released to be twirled into smooth yarn as the spindle swiftly wound it on to a bobbin. It was fascinating to watch this rhythm of movement of the hands of an experienced spinner. Just before the last bit of wool is allowed to become twisted into yarn, a new card is picked up and joined by allowing just enough twist past the fingers to hold the two together, then the wool is again pulled out and by quick manipulation of the fingers, it becomes a smooth strand released bit by bit to be swiftly pulled in by whirring of the spindle onto the bobbin. When three bobbins are fill-



Lars Larson Family - 1919.

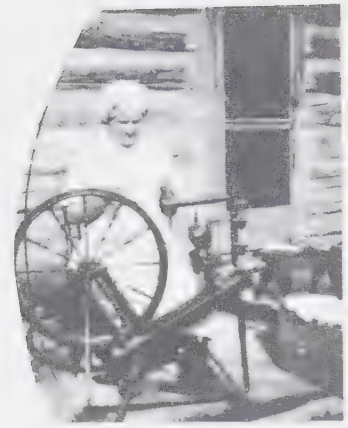
ed, they would be strung onto a stout wire in a special holder and by turning the big wheel to the left instead of right as in the first part of the operation, these strands were twisted together into a three ply yarn.



Mrs. Lars Larson wash-
ing clothes.



Mr. and Mrs. V. Larson
standing beside a tree they planted
in Sweden just before they came to
Canada and Alder Flats 42 years
earlier.



Mrs. Lars Larson

OSCAR LARSSON STORY - By Einar Larsson

The first settler at Buck Lake was "old man" Pocha, so we called him. He and his wife came in about 1875-1880. He was a half breed. I remember them well. His son Ed, in later years, built his cabin only a few yards from his father's and raised his family.

The first white settler - a man by the name of J. L. Tipping and family came in about 1906, squatted on the lakeshore where Coral Cabins are now. When the country here was surveyed in 1910, Dalt Tipping, son of J. L., homesteaded the quarter where Henry Brown lives now and Tipping lived there until 1916 when they moved further west - west of Alder Flats on the Wolf River.

Frank Meikle, from P.E.I., came to Buck Lake in the winter of 1907, trapping, and built his cabin on the point, on the place now known as the Alfred Kaiserman property and later, after the survey, homesteaded that land and lived the rest of his days there.

Emil Koblin - first he came in the summer of 1909 and built his cabin in the timber on the lakeshore and after the survey he homesteaded said land and lived the rest of his days there. He passed away in 1938.

I believe, if I am not mistaken, that the railroad was built into Haverig, or Hoadley as it has been called since, in 1922 or 1923. The first trains came in spring of 1923 as Ed McKay started a cream route that spring to Hoadley over the hills southeast from Pendryl as there was no Winfield at that time. I.O. Gibbons started a small store and stopping place next to the present tracks east and north of the underpass about 50 yards north of the road going east in the summer of 1925 and it was called Winfield. The small store and stopping place, each one about 12 X 16 feet, with a roof something like the roof of a school bus, were the first buildings in Winfield.

Sometime between the fall of 1925 and midsummer of 1926, Mr. Gibbons moved his store north one half mile to the site where Mr. Gordon Beatty's store now is in 1971.

The first train came into Winfield in the spring of 1927 and went north as far as Breton, this being the end of the rails for a few years.

Arthur Burrows worked in the logging camp on the north end of Buck Lake in 1908 or 1909, and in 1910 or before World War I, he homesteaded the quarter where Marvin Becker now lives. He joined the army and served overseas from 1915 to the end of the war. He brought the first steam powered sawmill to Buck Lake in the winter of 1920, sawed there and planed the first lumber that was planed in the Buck Lake area. I still have the saw blade that sawed the first lumber in the Buck Lake area by horse power; a small 26" blade hanging in my old shop - used to be owned by Allen Siegel, sawyer. Mr. Burrows set his mill up on the creek bank on the west side of the creek, a little north of where Marvin Becker's house is now. It was built of some of the first lumber he sawed.

I also worked in a sawmill as a kid of 11½ years, helped around the mill a few days that first year. That is where I threw my first stick of wood into a firebox on a steam engine and pulled the saw lever for the first time to cut the board of a log under the sharp eyes of Mr. Burrows. It was 51 years ago, and it seems as if it was yesterday.

The company that cut lumber on the north end of Buck Lake and down the creek in 1907 to 1909, someplace in there, they had about a half section of timber. They put in a dam on the creek about ½ mile down from the lake so they could control the water for driving the logs down to the Saskatchewan River and on to Edmonton.

I came with my parents and sister (later Mrs. Gilbert Siegel). My father, Oscar Frederd Larrson came from south central Sweden, in July 1914, to Lacombe, Alberta. My father brought two of my cousins along to their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Wedlund, who lived on the north end of Gull Lake, east of Rimbey. Father worked on the threshing outfits around there that fall. Being a man who liked to hunt, he went along with a party hunting west of Iola. They were about 6 or 8 miles south of old Pendryl. He got lost one day and after dark he spotted a light some distance away. On his way toward it, as he came over the hill, he lost track of the light so he was lost again. Finally he heard someone chopping wood so he turned and travelled in that direction and came onto a campfire. He called to the camp and was welcomed in, as it turned out to be Dr. Byers of Rimbey and his hunting party. Father was worried about his hunting partner wondering where he was. As it turned out, there was one Swede in Dr. Byers party who knew the country and said "do not worry. I know where your camp is and after you have had something to eat and drink, and rested, I will go along with you to your camp." For supper Dr. Byers had roasted a small animal. After he had finished he asked what kind of meat it was, as it was very good and tender. Dr. Byers showed him the hide and quills and told him it was porcupine. As he was eating and resting, he was asking a lot of questions about fish and game and said he would like to settle by a lake with lots of good fish and game, if he did not get the land he had canceled and refiled on in the Bentley district. Dr. Byers told him he knew of just the kind of place Dad wanted and said he had some friends that lived there and one that was Swede. He expected to see him early in the spring going back to Buck Lake so he gave Dad the address so Dad could get in touch with him, as Dad did. Sometime in the winter after New Years, Dad got his \$10 bill back that he had paid in as homestead fee, with a note saying the man had moved onto his homestead. So Dad decided right away that he would get in touch with this Mr. Anderson that Dr. Byers had told him about. Dad found him and arrangements were made that they would go sometime in March or early April and he would bring some whitefish back to Rimbey and Lacombe. As it happened to be very early spring, with snow all gone. Dad liked the fish and the way they caught, but he could not find a piece of land to his liking close to the lake shore as all was taken up. Anyplace where there was no green timber standing, it was only firekilled windfall, 6 to 7 feet deep and no grass. There was only one place where he found some grass. It was on the quarter east of Anderson's, same section - the S.E. 4 - 46 - 6 - 5, but there was a log house, two story. Dad said to Anderson, I cancelled one place before and no luck, and I do not like to cancel another man's homestead. Anderson said - I can find this man for you as he is around Lacombe and I believe he has no intentions of coming back. So I think he will give it up for you. As it happened, he did when Dad found him.

So Dad filed on the S.E. ½ of 4 - 46 - 6 - 5 on the fifteenth day of April, 1915 in Lacombe or Ponoka. I do not know which it was. At that time all around the lake for about two miles was well settled, every quarter homesteaded so Dad was lucky to get a homestead only a mile and a half from the lake.

December 27, 1915. I will now name some or most of the settlers west and at the south end of Buck Lake that I can remember. I will start with the ones farthest northwest of the lake. Ludvig Larson; Bloomgren; Woods Bros.; Emil Koblin; Sprusick, Seaman; Joe Wilson; Wilbery Wilson; Ebby Wilson; Walter Sisson; Old Man Wilson; G. Nelson; Dickson; C. Lindberg; Fred Vegel; A. Jacobson; Wm. Siegel; C. Ike, O.F. Larsson; all west of the lake - some others were there also but I do not remember their names. Now on the south end of the lake were J. L. Tipping (postmaster of Minnehik Post Office), Herb Warren, Art Burrows, St. Clair Bros. (they had a fox farm), two Nystroms, Bordine, A. Bjur, Pete Bjur, Furlough Bros. On the east side of the lake were Bert Taylor, Bill Taylor, John Engblom, Pochas, Old Man Carl. Farther east was George Berg, John Olson, Harold Weaver, Sam Weaver, Gus Bjur, Betlamini. North and east were old Leifson, Heighington, Pete Nelson, Horndorf, three Calhouns, Bortnik and others. Farther north the Pennycooks, Bathgate, Williamson, Erikson, Halgrens, Alfred Olson (Buck Creek). These settlers were all

here except Halgrens of Buck Creek in December 1915 when we came in to stay. It has been a nice little while.

We lived at Gull Lake the fall of 1914 with my uncle, Mr. Wedlund and in the fall before it got cold, we moved to Ole Carlson on the lakeshore and stayed the winter of 1915. I was now six years old. There was a small house on Gull Lake on the ice with wood stoves to keep warm in, while fishing through the ice. This one day I was with Dad fishing. I will never forget I caught my first fish. Dad told me to hold the fish pole and line while he cut some wood outside to keep the fire going. All of a sudden there was a mighty pull on the line - just about pulled me in the hole. I hollered and made for the door and with the line. Dad was surprised to see me coming out with a jackfish on the line longer than I was tall. It must have weighed at least twenty pounds. It was a wonder I did not slide into the hole. Even today, when I think about it, I cannot see how I made it.

It was now spring. In May when Dad received his homestead receipt, that it was his, it was too late to move in as the frost was out of the swamps and to take anything in had to wait until winter again. About July it was dry as June had little rain. Dad borrowed the farmer's team and new buggy to go with Anderson to Buck Lake and see what the country looked like in the summer. We were now staying on a farm, John Honden's, two miles north and two miles east of Rimbey. The trail from Rimbey was north-west through Lavesta, Iola over the ridge, through the Indian Reserve south of Buck Lake. The trail went right by the Chief's - George Rains - house as he wanted to live like a white man more than an Indian. Here Dad had quite an experience. As Dad and Anderson came up to drive past the Chief's house, some Indians came up and held on to the bridles of the horses and said, "This is as far as the white man goes. You will have to turn back as you will only ruin the trail the Indians have cut to Buck Lake and no white man ever offered to help cut the road". As Dad could talk no English, he did not understand so he reached for his rifle. Anderson said, "Don't touch it," and explained to Dad what the Indians said. Dad told him to say they were only going to stay a few days, that they had only enough provisions to do them, but next time they came they would bring some flour, sugar, coffee, tea and tobacco. He opened his snuff box and held it out to George Rain, his squaw and the other Indians all took a good chew. There was only a small chew left in the box for Dad so he put a little in his mouth and some up his nose. The squaw saw this and gave her husband a shove in the ribs and said "We are doing it wrong. Supposed to put it in our nose". She took the snuff out of her mouth and like us, she put it in her nose. The rest of the Indians followed suite, sniffed it up their noses and then the fun began. The Indians began to sneeze so Dad picked up the whip and sent the team down the trail while the Indians were busy sneezing. They stayed a few days, caught some white fish and Mr. Anderson loaded up his few things and they went back past the Indians. Dad gave the Indians what tobacco, tea, sugar and coffee they had left so the Indians were happy. The Chief and Dad became good friends until that band of Indians died out in 1918 with the flu. They died out west of the Saskatchewan River, all that was left of about thirty Indian families were Rom Rain, a cousin to George, Mrs. Rain and their son Harry. He is still alive as far as I know at Hobbema. Dad bought lumber north of Rimbey for floor, roof and ceiling for the house and hired a man in Iola - Mr. Sundberg - to go along and help finish the house. When the house was ready, Dad came back for us. We left Lavesta early in the morning on the 27th of December 1915 and arrived late that night at the homestead that became our home for a long time. Dad and Mother both lived there until they passed away; Dad in 1961 at the age of eighty-three and Mother in 1964 at the age of eighty-three. My youngest brother, Siguard, has my father's homestead today. I am still living on my homestead across the road east of Dad's that I homesteaded in 1927. Another day I will never forget was December 28, 1915 when Dad and Sundberg that day set a fifty yard net in Buck Lake close to shore where Barker's Snack Bar is now. I was along with them the day they went to pull the net. It had ninety whitefish in it - all big ones - seven to eight pound fish, all of them. I had never before seen so many fish. I was always along with Dad.

Mr. Sanford Nelson, of Knob Hill, was the mail carrier from Yeoford. He would bring the mail once every two weeks to Minnehik. He would come out to the north end of the lake and down on ice in winter, in summer with boat and it was quite a nature boat, powered with a half horse washing machine engine. Sometimes it would run and sometimes not, as oars were the main power and sail; as there was no roads - only Calder's old trail from Wetaskiwin to supply their logging operation on the Saskatchewan River straight west of Buck Lake. The other trail was by Norbuck, west on the township line between Township forty-six and forty-seven. The government had spent some money to open a road to the lake as it had been used to supply a logging camp on the north end of the lake in 1908-1909. This trail ran straight west from Knob Hill to the lake. Sanford Nelson was quite a big man and had funny ways about him.

He drove an ox team hitched to his wagon. When the oxen got stuck in a swamp where the water and mud came up over their backs, just head and horns above the water, tired and stuck, he would sit down on a windfall with his face buried in his hands and sit there all day. I asked him one time why he did not help the oxen to get out, he said, "What's the use? I am a big man but they are bigger and stronger than I, so I will just wait until they are ready to move. They will get hungry and crawl out and they are still hitched to the wagon so it will also come out and we will be on our way again until the next bog hole".

Mr. J. L. Tipping, his wife, son Dalton and daughter Mary in the fall, 1916, moved away from Dalton's homestead at Buck Lake out west to the Wolf River to their ranch.

The Minnehik Post Office was moved to Sisson's on the west side of the lake and Mrs. Walter Sissons became the new postmistress. This made it too far for the settlers east of the lake for mail service so another post office by the name of Pendryl was established about one mile south, four miles east of the south-east end of Buck Lake. Harold Weaver became the postmaster of Pendryl and was the postmaster for eight or ten years; as now the mail route changed to follow the old logging supply trail from Yeoford west to the Saskatchewan River. As it passed the south end of the lake. I do not know who carried letters after Mr. Nelson. I believe it was Mr. Herman Siegel in 1917. He travelled by saddle horse and used two pack horses and he had the mail contract for about two years. Mr. Herman Siegel had now homesteaded on the west side of the lake just north of where the bridge is today. To follow the trail around to his homestead made the distance about five miles farther than where the bridge is today. It was only about 150 feet wide. Herman and father, Mr. William Siegel, built a pack bridge by putting posts in through the ice in the winter. These posts, or piles, two side by side, about three and one-half or four feet apart and a notch on each one so a cross piece could be tied in between them. These pair of ties were set about ten inches in diameter and twenty-four feet long and were placed on these cross pieces and ties together with barbed wire. These four long logs were the deck of the bridge running across the narrows for the horses to walk on. This bridge was there about one year. The following winter of 1918, a better bridge was built, strong enough to carry a light wagon. Across the deck was poplar poles laid crosswise.

A man I will never forget, the first time I saw him was the first fire ranger that I remember - Bob Volkenberg. This day he came walking along, bent over, talking to himself. In one hand he held a long axe handle with a small axe head on it. It swung from side to side over his shoulder and he was saying, "One step here and one step there and to this tree here and tack the fire notice up there". When he was finished tacking up the notice, he said, "A good job done, one step here and one step there". He went back the way he had come with his axe swinging over his shoulder. He later operated a sawmill for a few years on the north east corner of the lake in the 1930's.

Mother and Dad brought about fifteen chickens along so we would have some eggs. The hens hid away their nests so we couldn't find them. By midsummer there were about fifty to sixty young chickens around, but early in the fall, the coyotes started in on them and it did not take long to clean them all up. Mother used to take after them with the broom to try to save the chickens. They took them right in the doorway as there were no rabbits for them to eat as rabbits had died off in the late winter of 1916.

Dad was out working on elevator buildings in summer so we were alone until fall. As there was no store closer than Yeoford or Rimbey, the settlers brought all their food supplies in during winter. When the swamps were frozen early in the fall, Dad decided he had better come home as he had heard nothing since the first part of June and now it was the last part of August 1916. He came into Wetaskiwin, caught a ride to Yeoford, met Mr. John Pennycook from Buck Creek. John had a team of oxen and wagon so Dad travelled with him to the north end of Buck Lake. When they camped in the evening, a boat was seen on shore. In the morning, at time of parting of ways, Dad asked Mr. Pennycook what he wanted for fifty pounds of flour. John said "It is not for sale". Dad asked him why he didn't say this in Yeoford since his family might be starving if even still alive. He handed over \$10.00 and said he was taking one hundred pounds; that John could just try to stop him and anyway, as soon as it froze up he would get a sack back. He then loaded the flour in the boat and headed across the lake for home and got there none too soon, as the last loaf of bread was being eaten and no one in the settlement had any more flour or sugar. They all came and borrowed enough for a baking to last until more could be brought in. It had rained for almost two months so trails were a solid sea of mud. Mr. H. Siegel tried his best to pack in enough food supplies on his two pack horses, but could only manage fifty pounds flour plus tea, coffee, sugar, salt, etc., besides the mail. The other settlers east of us were in the same boat.

In the winter of 1916, most of the settlers had left for greener places. Out of twenty families, there were seven left south-west of the lake and that was all for the next three years.

We were the first ones to have a lumber floor and roof. Dad hauled lumber from Lavesta in 1915. Most of the houses and cabins had split pine logs or round poles, flattened off with an axe on the top side for floor. Poles or split logs covered with spruce bark and dirt on top - some of these roofs shed water real good. Others were dry under while rain was falling but when the sun came out it rained through so that way it was raining all the time.

In the summer of 1915 to winter of 1916, we organized a Public School and it opened November 1st, 1916. It was the first school west of Yeoford and north of Rimbey. There were ten students that attended school that first day and they were: Miss Lena Bjur, Fred Bjur, Ebba Bjur, Carl Sissons, Miss Beatrice Sissons, Miss Pearl Sissons, Alan Siegel, Miss Isabelle Siegel, Gilbert Siegel and myself, Ejnar Larsson. There are still four of us living here at Buck Lake. Two passed away. Carl Sisson, in approximately 1923 and Beatrice Sisson, a few years ago. The rest are still alive in B.C. Today, June, 1971, a picture was taken at the Old Timers Reunion of the four living here. We are: Lena (Bjur) Brown, Fred Bjur, Gilbert Siegel and Ejnar Larsson (myself).

The first school was held in Mr. Jacobson's log house, with pole floor and sod roof which was on his homestead described as N.W. 3 - 46 - 6 - 5. The poles on the floor were flattened on top but there were cracks between up to two inches wide. If one of us dropped a pencil or ruler, we either had to fish for them or the teacher would lift the pole so we could reach down for it.

Our teacher was Mrs. Wilbur Wilson on N.E. 15 - 46 - 6 - 5. This house was about twelve by sixteen and used that winter for awhile as schoolhouse, until one could be built in the winter of 1917 and spring of 1918 as there was no school in 1917. This school was built of squared logs done with broad axe with roof and floor of planed lumber. That first day of school all I could say in English was "yes" and "no". I could read some and count and write in Swedish. Teacher asked me to write on my slate and was surprised as I progressed rapidly.

MRS. MARY LASELL

Mrs. Mary Jane Lasell and her children Thomas, Catherine, Ronald, and David came to Winfield in August 1957. Mrs. Lasell taught the grade three class and Catherine, Ronald and David attended school here. Tom took a correspondence courses in radio and television and then moved to Camrose for employment. He married Eleanor Johansson of Winfield in 1959. They were blessed with two sons Donald and Blaine.

Later Tom and Eleanor were divorced. Eleanor moved to New Westminister where her parents and brother live. Some time later Tom married a widow, Helen Lucas, with her little daughter Wanda. Now they have another daughter, Lori. They are living in Camrose where Tom is shop foreman for Wilson Electric.

On July 12, 1960, Mrs. Lasell and her daughter Cathy were united in marriage at a double wedding ceremony to two brothers Orman and Sydney Borden. Mrs. Borden continued to teach grade three in Winfield.

Cathy and Sydney moved to Wetaskiwin where Sydney was employed for several years. Later they moved to Leduc where they bought a home, and Sydney works in Edmonton. They have two sons Shannon and Brian.

Orman, Ronald and David have been employed at various places in Alberta.

ALDER FLATS LEGION

The Alder Flats Legion was formed in 1956 with approximately 35 members. The first officers were Bert Proudley, President and Val Wybert, Secretary. In 1962, they bought buildings from the Flint Rig holding for their hall. The present hall was purchased from Haggart's in 1965. In 1972, the membership remains about the same, and the present officers are; President - Dick Clemmer and Secretary, Eric Wennerstrom.

WINFIELD LEGION # 236

October 6, 1947. Charter members:

Sid Handbury
Richard Clemmer
Lue Binney

I. Zlatouskousky
Jock McFadden
Orton Hanna
R. Becker
Jack Handbury
Nelson Handbury
Edward Abbott
Miss I. E. Sabin

David (Scotty) Donald - was charter member in Calgary Branch and transferred to #236.

Honor Roll - World War I and II

1914 - 1918

Benjamin Bunney - Yeoford

(?) Hewlet - Winfield

Tom Marsden - Yeoford

W. Marsden - Yeoford

1939 - 1945

William Freeman

Ivan Nilsson

Clarence Nadeau

WINFIELD LEGION AUXILIARY

Winfield Legion Aux. #236 was formed August 19th, 1953 with 10 ladies present. We got our Aux. charter Sept. 9, 1953.

Our charter members were Muriel Hendrigan, Doris Handbury, Beulah McNaughton, M. Bateman, Betty Madden, Alene Clemmer, M. Pye, M. Gagnier, Mrs. Thelma Norman, Geda Donald.

Our first president was M. Hendrigan and first Sec. - Treas. was D. Handbury. All meetings were held at peoples homes until we got our hall in Feb. 1955. We did a lot of remodeling on it.

The Legion and Aux. work together on any projects that come up. We help out people that get burnt out. Polio, cancer patients and Veterans who are still in Veterans hospitals and mental institutions also get help. We give a scholarship fund to the Winfield Grade 10 student with highest marks for the year. We give the Guides and Brownies free use of the hall every week.

We've built a cenotaph in memory of our fallen comrades. We also built a Winfield Memorial park with picnic facilities and a playground for children. This has swings, a slide and a sandbox. When any of our members pass away, we put a book in our library in their memory.

THE VICTOR LEONHARDT STORY - By Elise J. Leonhardt

Victor and I, and our family of seven came to this district in June 1963. We were both born on homesteads, to homesteading parents, Victor in Drumheller, I at Champion Alberta.

Victor's parents were descendents of a group of gallant German families who left their Homeland because of religious persecution. They emigrated to Russia where they settled in a group and developed for themselves good farms from the rich river valley in Southern Russia. After three hundred years of tenacy, the descendants became numerous and quite prosperous. They stayed together generally, had their own villages and German was the language spoken although over the years it became somewhat mixed with Russian to become a peculiarly local idiom. Again persecution descended on them, this time political, and many decided to emigrate to the United States and Canada. Victor's parents, Jacob and Marie, and uncles Carl and Alexander, and a distant cousin Henry Carl, were among these. Jacob and Marie had been married only a short time when the group set out in 1906 to make a new life.

They came first to the States and lived in Chicago for about 2 years. Here the two eldest children, Edward and Reinhardt, were born. Henry Carl went out to Western Canada and came back enthused about it and the prospect of getting free land, and convinced the rest to go.

They came out to Calgary and lived there over a year where the Leonhardt Bros. ran a dray business in N.E. Calgary, (Bridgeland).

While continuing to operate the business, they looked for land to file on, and chose land along the Red Deer River, on the north east side, across the river from where the City of Drumheller started and grew.

The topography of the land chosen was widely divergent. The river flats were rocky,

rough and useless for cultivation. Steep, 400 foot high cutbanks divided the flats from the land above. The land here however was rich black gumbo. Settlers at that time passed this over in favor of the lighter grasslands, which at that time looked richer and better. In the thirties they were to regret this choice, as the gumbo when broken produced excellent crops.

As lumber for building had to be hauled for many miles, from the shipping point, the first home they had when they moved out, was a "dugout" or cave dug into a steep bank and roofed over with laced willows and covered with sod, down on the river flats. A similar shelter was made for the livestock.

A son Jacob had been born in Calgary, and another, August, was born in this dugout. The story is told, that the Dr. delivering him was paid with beaver skins. With food in very short supply, the settlers trapped beaver for food, although the practice was illegal. There was little other wild game available.

There were no bridges over the river. One ferry was farther up. The brothers built a ferry, the operation of which was many times left to Marie while they worked at the homestead. This ferry assisted many of the new settlers to cross over the river to their homesteads farther east, to bring their essential possessions and livestock.

The farm buildings were built up on top and the family moved up there from the river side. Victor was born there in a small homestead shack. Three sisters and three more brothers were born on the homestead. Reinhardt died in 1929 of spinal meningitis, aged 21, and two of the younger ones died in infancy.

More land was purchased and the families spread out. Another uncle, Julius, the youngest of the family, and the grandparents came out from Russia and settled nearby.

Victor's father died in 1923, when the eldest son Edward was only 16. His mother and the children carried on the farm, a grim struggle during the thirties. Their proximity to the then booming coal town of Drumheller, enabled them not only to keep the homestead, but to purchase other farms as the boys married, had families, and moved out. The partnership formed by Victor and his brothers in those years continued until 1945.

My father, William O. Schmeelke, his parents Henry and Mary Schmeelke and sisters Henrietta and Laura came from Fairbank Iowa to Nanton Alberta, in 1906. Grandma ran a boarding house in Nanton for awhile. Dad and Grandpa bought homesteads in the Champion district (then known as Cleverville) which were then available for \$3.00 an acre. Dad worked on the Dymont Ranches which were established between Nanton and Vulcan. It was here he met Mother, Carrie Dibb, who had come out from Ontario with her father - the family followed later - and all worked on the ranches.

Grandpa Schmeelke was a carpenter by trade, and some of his handiwork still exists in and around Nanton and in the Champion district. The house he built on his homestead was sturdy, well built and of an unique design seldom seen in the Canadian west. Dad brought Mother to this home as a bride in 1912, and it was here that my brother, two sisters and I were born, and my one sister who died at birth. My brother, his wife and family are still living in the old home, and though beginning to show its age, is still comfortable and homelike.

Victor and I were married in 1942 and went to live on the farm his grandfather homesteaded, and his mother, brothers and he had labored so hard to improve. When the partnership was dissolved in 1945, we took over the "estate" farm as it was known, and the quarter where Victor had been born. Our seven children were all born in Drumheller, and all but Kevin attended school there.

Around 1960, Victor became interested in this area and bought some land up here at Government land sales, as well as by private sale. In 1962 we made the decision to move, sold the home farm, and in 1963 moved up, family, furniture, livestock, machinery - and our Lancaster Bomber. This "Lanc" has been our trademark ever since it was purchased at Penhold in 1949, taken first to Drumheller and then up here.

We had purchased lake property from Dan Holmes, but lived at Crystal Springs until we could get a building up over here. When Dan and Margaret Holmes decided to sell their homestead and buy the store at Yeoford, we bought the rest of the S.W. $\frac{1}{4}$ 12 - 47 - 2 - W. of the 5th, and with a house now available to us, we moved over on November 1st. We built a larger house to fit our family, down nearer the lake, but continue to operate the farm. Our children attended Lakedell and Pigeon Lake Regional Schools, and the older ones are now starting lives of their own.

We found in this district, good neighbors, and neighborliness, good friends, and a deep contentment with our natural surroundings.

Although we are latecomers to this area, we are surrounded by the spirit of the "Trail Blazers" from Anthony Henday and his Cree guides, on down. Although the land around us is relatively bare, huge tree stumps and a thick layer of black peat soil bear mute testimony

to the stands of timber that once covered this land, and the remnants of corduroy track uncovered here and there tell a story of sweat and toil, of backbreak and heartache.

JOHN LIUTKEVI - as told to Elaine Garbauski

John Liutkevi was born in Lithuania and spent his early years there. He came to Canada in 1928 and got a job as a tailor in Edmonton (the trade he had in Lithuania) in 1929. In 1930 he came out to this area where others of the same nationality had settled, and took out a homestead, the S.W. 14, 47 - 2 - W 5th. His first "home" on this land, was a shelter of spruce boughs. He slept under these until he got his shack up. He cleared 40 acres by hand and hired a person with horses to break the land. When he got the shack built, he lacked windows and officials threatened to take his homestead away because of this. A neighbor brought him the needed windows. The first livestock was a cow which he bought for \$20.00. He sold that one to Pete Mor-kunas. John used to be the local barber for some of the neighbors.

He cut logs in winter west of Breton for Snell getting 2¢ a log and 3¢ a log for bigger stuff. Also during the hungry thirties he worked for farmers east of Wetaskiwin for just board, though some paid fifty cents a day. One time he was helping with threshing, and when finished he walked from Killam to Camrose, then to Wetaskiwin, then to Winfield. He used to walk to Edmonton at least once a year, sometimes twice. It took him about 13 hours to get there if the going was good. He often clocked himself at 15 minutes for a mile.

When he went to Wetaskiwin it took two days to go, and to come back with horses. From Westeros on home there were no roads, just bush.

He went to Calgary to work as a tailor again, in 1939, but could only work one month as it was war time. They wouldn't let him stay in town because he had a farm, so he returned to it.

The first equipment he had was an axe and swede saw, which he bought from Yeoford Store. When he went to Wetaskiwin for groceries, he and Phil Michky got together and took a load of tamarack rails in and traded them for 600 lbs. of flour and 2 bags of rolled oats.

He went to work in the mine at Cambria in the Drumheller coal field. Through a fellow worker he got to meet his future wife, Annie. She came out to this country and on September 10, 1948 they were married. They were going to Winfield in Pete Garbauski's truck to get married, when the vehicle slipped into the ditch. Annie says this has made her frightened of driving ever since. Her wedding gifts were two towels and one cake, and the wedding dinner was chicken rice soup.

After his marriage, John stayed on the farm and starting again with one heifer calf, built up a herd.

At first the only water source was from the creek. He tried to get a good well but at first had no luck. Finally he dug a good well and then in 1966 got a well drilled.

He sold his stock and machinery in 1963, rented the farm and moved out to B.C. in search of greener pastures, but he and Annie found themselves so homesick they came back in March 1964. Once again they bought cattle and built up a herd, and Annie started raising geese again. They are at home on the original homestead.



CHARLIE D. LINDSAY

Charlie worked as a mill hand at Drader's first mill site near the Society School. He came in the late 1920's and returned to Scotland in 1939. Scotty and Geda Donald visited him there in 1971.



Charlie Lindsay with the horses at the mill.e mill.

grounds and facilities. It also started the Recreation grounds. They are sponsors to the Recreation centre and help all forms of recreation. They meet regularly the second and fourth Wednesday of every month.

MOE LITVAK FAMILY

Moe Litvak was born in Trochu, Alberta. Via Hodgson was born in Alliance, Alberta. They were both raised on a farm. They came to the Wetaskiwin district in 1956. In 1965 they purchased their "Ponderosa" at Yeoford, N.W. 36 - 46 - 3 - 5, from Charles Stokes. Their son James and daughter Janet love to come to the farm. In 1965 Moe planted a number of Scot Pine Trees for Christmas trees. They were badly damaged by rabbits. Moe now pastures a few cattle and they spend most of their summers on the place. Moe is the sponsoring chairman for the Air Cadets in Wetaskiwin. He was awarded Kinsman of the Year award in 1971, also serves on the Separate School Board. He is employed by A.G.T. as a telephone technician and is very active in his community.

Moe's brand is  on the left hip.

MR. CHARLES B. LONG

Born at St. Catherines, Ontario, he spent his boyhood in that vicinity and was an ardent Lacrosse player. At the age of twenty-three, he joined up and spent seven months in Africa in the Boer War. 1903 and 1904 were spent on the Skeena River in B.C. working at a tie camp. Returning to Ontario, he worked for a hotel for some time. In 1910 he met and married Harriet Ivy Sullivan who was born in Kansas, U.S.A. Their first home was a sod shack at Mirror Landing, Alberta. Their first son, Charles, was born at Athabasca in 1912. Mildred was born in 1914 and Audrey in 1916, both at Lac La Biche while Mr. Long was employed as Hudson Bay factor. It was during this time that a big bush fire swept through the district and residents took refuge in the shallow water of Lac La Biche.

1919 saw us moved to an acreage of ten acres in Modesto, California. Dad didn't like the damp weather. He said even woolen underwear didn't help much. In 1921 we moved back to Alberta. Dad had made a deal with a Mr. Brady - our ten acres in Modesto for 640 acres at Pendryl sight unseen (almost total wilderness).

Dad, Mother and we three children; Charles, myself and sister Audrey, arrived at Pendryl in pouring rain, June 6, 1921. We had travelled by two teams and wagons from Wetaskiwin, taking three days for the trip. One stop over was made near the east side of Pigeon Lake and the next one at the Bunker place.

On our new place were three car roofed log shacks about 12 X 16 each. Dad had never had any experience at farming so this was a big, big venture.

Mr. Bert Taylor and son helped us on the trip here to our new home which was described as Sec. 28 - 45 - 5 - 5. The first thing we did after settling in was prepare and plant a garden which turned out very well even though it was planted late.

In 1922, a framehouse was built by Mr. George Dewar and all lumber was hauled from Burrows Mill. We kids started school too. The teacher, Mr. Brian, stayed at our place and we all rode horseback to Maywood - 5 miles by regular route or 4 miles across country.

Dad was nicknamed C.B. by the neighbors and sometimes laughingly called the "Buck Lake Millionaire" as he had come into the district with \$10,000 - a sizable sum in those days.

Many homesteaders borrowed money or got grain to plant in the next few years. They paid

back the following fall when their crop was harvested or they had procured a job during the winter months.

Dad had brought a load of essential groceries with us from Wetaskiwin. These lasted two years. After this, the farm had to produce pretty well all of what we needed. There was wheat roasted for coffee, hullless oats and wheat ground in our own mill for bread, porridge, and to put in cookies, and bread made of brown flour. This was helped by a plentiful quantity of wild fruits that were picked and preserved. A flock of sheep and chickens were kept on the farm so there was always meat. The grown-ups had real coffee on Sunday morning for breakfast. Salt, seasonings, white flour and sugar were bought once a month at Weaver's store. The bill kept at a maximum of \$10.00 for six persons per month. It was a pleasure to sit down to a meal of mashed potatoes, brown gravy, a creamed vegetable, brown bread, chicken or roast lamb and wild fruit for dessert. White bread was only made once every second month and we all thrived.

Brother Harvey was born in 1923 in Wetaskiwin.

One thing that has stood out in my memory were the swarms of mosquitos that poisoned at every bite. We used citronella oil which could only be called the lesser of two evils.

School terms began on April 1st, ending November 1st. I remember one year the teacher and pupils spent many hours making a trellis of roses to cover the top and sides of the stage for the Christmas concert that would be put on early. The weather turned bad - a real blizzard and the school house full. The children were all bundled into sleighs and everyone made for home as quickly as possible and very thankful to get there through such a storm, but still a real disappointment as the children did so look forward to saying their piece on the stage.

1926 was a bad year. Grain was lush and green but it rained and rained and became impossible to move machinery on the fields. Dad got up at 4 a.m. to check the fields by lantern light to see if there was enough frost to carry machinery. In the end, most was cut with a mower and stacked as green feed and the remainder was snowed under the last part of October.

October 1928, Mom was operated on for ruptured appendix. The kitchen table being used as an operating theatre, Dr. Henry, accompanied by his nurse, came late in the night travelling with a Model T car over sodden trails as it had rained for days. After the operation, they had an early breakfast and headed back to Bentley where there were many patients depending on their being there.

Then came the 30's and the depression. Five gallons of cream brought \$2.00 at most. A fat cow \$10 to 12, \$5 for a suckling calf. All stock sold were herded to the railway at Winfield, a distance of 14 miles - a big day for my sister and I, as we acted as cowgals and arrived back home in the wee hours just before daybreak.

Sometime in the late 1920's or early 1930's, there was a tragic accident involving Mr. Kovar. He got caught in the power take off of his saw mill and was killed. It was a Friday and a dance was planned for that evening. School was let out and needless to say, the dance was cancelled.

1932 saw many changes as prairie farmers moved in and took up homesteads. About this time, Dad bought his first tractor - a 10-20 International. The old horse drawn machinery was used for some time, even several years.

Etter-McDougall's mill came about this time too, which made work for many, although wages were very low.

In 1921, when we came, brush was thick on our place but only about 6 to 8 feet high except in timber areas. We kids were petrified of getting lost. Mr. Fred Krogh and Mr. Art Moebus broke most of the land after being cleared by axe by Indians, and encouraged by \$5.00 per acre, we kids did some clearing too. All breaking was done with 6 or 8 horse outfits pulling a breaker plow.

There were many hardships and just no conveniences - really unlooked for as everyone was "in the same boat".

All in all, I am sure we were just as happy, or more so, than the young people today. Mom and Dad both passed away in 1948.

Charles lives on what is described as the old school section, and they have one boy, Marvin.

Audrey lives at Vernon, B.C. There are four children; Violet, Gordon, Eleanor and Clarence.

by Mildred Goodkey

CHARLES F. LONG

I was eight years old when we moved here from California and the following year (1922) we started school at Maywood. In 1926 I shot my first moose, I was thirteen years old and it was a proud accomplishment. It was that year too that swamp fever killed so many horses, Dad lost all his Percherons but one. The horses and mules that were being used to build the railway to Hoadley died by the score and were buried as they fell. It is said that, that piece of grade is built with the bones of horses.

When Mr. Lewis left the S.E. 33 - 45 - 5 - 5, Mother took it as a homestead as it joined the north east of their section. In 1923, Dad bought a half section from Carl Demars and Frank Bailey. In 1932 he bought the John Anderson quarter, the S.E. 5 - 46 - 5 - 5 and here, with Ben stady as carpenter, a new home was built and the family moved there in 1935.



Mr. and Mrs. Charles B. Long

In 1931 I got a job on the A7 Ranch at Nanton for a short time, worked for Dad the next year and in 1933 was working for the Van Valkinbergs (north east corner of Buck Lake) hauling logs, when their whole mill burned down. That job paid nine dollars a month and board. These were depression years and jobs were hard to come by. I rode the freights like many another and took jobs where they could be found. Once when a friend and I were riding a freight out of Red Deer on our way to Sask. about 400 men jumped the same train just out of Calgary and everyone scattered through Medicine Hat, when we got there. That poor city was already overloaded with hobos so my friend and I continued on east through a sea of sand where you could see only the tops of machinery and the tips of fence posts sticking out of the sand. At Pontiac, Sask. we found work. There, they had their first crop in eight years and when the harvest was finished, I had enough money to buy a Model T.

I remember two years when rabbits were so thick out here that we killed them by the hundred. In 1926 they were worth a little money but in 1935 we were paid 3¢ cash each. In one day two of us could kill a double wagon box full. A good heavy stick about four feet long, thrown with a spin into a bunch of rabbits would net you a number of them. Most were shot with 22 calibre rifles and cartridges were purchased by the carton of 1000. Rabbits were thickest in the cutting where logging was in process.

I married Myrtle Johnson of Edberg in Nov. of 1944. We moved to a log house on Dad's place and lived there until 1948 after which we moved to the original building site on "28". In 1950 I bought the west half of section 29 and we moved there in 1951. We have one son, Marvin born Christmas day, 1945. He attended school at

Maywood and Buck Lake. I sold the west half of section 28 to Louis Kiss in 1967. In May of 1968 we lost our home and possessions to fire and have rebuilt at the same location.

HARVEY LONG

My earliest memories are of school days at Maywood, hiking across country with Louis Huegle to get there. Many classmates have remained in the district and are still neighbors and friends. The teacher I remember most fondly is Mrs. Taylor and her husband Mike. Although Mike's health was poor, he was a fierce shinny player. I remember frozen ink bottles, bare feet and home haircuts. I was 12 years old before I saw Winfield, there was no reason to go outside the district.

After school years, I stayed on at home, although like most I went on threshing crews and worked in the logging camps in winter. Dad sold some hay and oats and beef to Burrows mill and I often hauled it. My first job in the bush was for the Willows, Jack and Bob worked the mill, Jim the bush crew. Adolph Schriber, Walter Oaks and I were skidders. Trabach brothers were falling. This was 1942 and there was some 60 below weather and bunk houses in those days were not up to much. I caught pneumonia and Jenny and Isabell Willows, who were camp cooks, took me in and cared for me. I smashed my ankle skidding that winter and had to quit for awhile but finished the year at Fraser's camp. The next winter I went with Jim Willows to skid for Anthony. In 1948 I bought a truck and hauled lumber at Lac La Biche for two winters. I hauled gravel, and had a breaking outfit in partnership with Ray Becker for a couple of years.

Shirley Waling and I were married in the fall of 1951 and moved into the home Dad had built in 1935. Farming income had to be supplemented so I continued to work out, a couple of winters falling for Fred Engstrom both here and at Lac La Biche. I operated a cat for Jimmy Knight for

a number of years doing oilfield work. Rily's transport established a pipe yard in Winfield when the nearby oilfield started to open up, with Herb Spinks as foreman, and I worked for him for a couple of years. When Rylies moved out I felt the farm would carry itself and have not taken off farm work since.

We have three children, Donna, now employed in Edmonton, Bert and Kelly still in school. They have all enjoyed belonging to 4-H and the Light Horse Club.

The country has grown at an amazing rate when we look back over the years, with the help of the lumber industry, oil industry, improved roads, telephone service and power. Farming techniques keep improving and rural life in this district is still a fine way of life.

THE LOOV FAMILY (Locally known as Loves)

Edwin Anders William Loov was born in Sweden on September 6, 1895 and came to Canada in 1927. His first work was as a carpenter building grain elevators in Manitoba. His wife, Augusta Charlotta (Asta), followed a year later with their two children, daughter Anna Karin Solveig age 6 and son Verner Bertil Stig, age 2. They arrived at Winnipeg on October 28, 1928 and settled for a short time in a new house in the suburb of St. Vital.

The next place in which the family lived were; Flin Flon, Manitoba in 1930-31, then to Calgary. Two particular jobs were at Standard and Baintree, building culverts under the C.P.R. Trestles. At Standard a flash flood on the small creek washed away a good share of the families possessions. At Baintree a sand storm knocked down a tent pole which fell on Asta's neck, causing some trouble for awhile.

Times were getting tough and with signs "NO HELP WANTED" at all places of work, it was necessary to move out from Calgary. William heard of land at Buck Lake but, upon inspecting it, was not impressed. Coming back towards Wetaskiwin he happened to stop at the west end of Battle Lake and here he found the place he wanted. Maybe this was because of the birch trees that reminded him of Sweden. The land was bought from a subsidiary of the C.P.R. Outlook Development Co. He was able to buy the N.E. $\frac{1}{4}$ of section 21 - 46 - 2 - 5.

Back in Calgary he bought a Model T Ford for \$18.00. In June 1933 he loaded all he could onto the old Ford, piled in Verner and Solveig and away they went. They arrived at the "farm" on June 21. Here after getting stuck a couple of times on the way from the highway to the lake he unloaded and took Solveig and Verner up to stay with the Larson family at Knob Hill while he went back to Calgary for another load. Two days later he was back with as much as he could haul, Asta and one new city-raised dog. Leaving his wife, car and dog on the shore of the lake he took off in the evening to see how the kids were. Stumbling through the dark trail west beyond the end of the lake and past Eric Norlin's he remembered a story about porcupines. He had heard that these animals would sit on a low tree-limb and swat unwary passersby with their quill-filled tails.

Meanwhile Asta, who had never lived in any kind of wild country, was back on the shore of the lake. With the coyotes howling and the loons and hell-divers hollering, with some thunder and lightning in the distance, with what seemed like miles of bush, it was difficult to tell who was most frightened, she or the dog. A few days later the dog ran away eventually being seen outside Calgary.

Although the summer was well on the way, a small garden was attempted on the hillside. The living arrangements were rather temporary in that the kitchen was an open campfire beside a spreading willow tree. The bedroom was a frame of poles covered on three sides with blankets and a leaky canvas for a roof. The living-room? --- 126 acres of bush. One of the first projects must of course be a house of some kind. He borrowed a boat and one day when there was a suitable easterly wind, he rowed to the east end of the lake. Here he was given some slabs from either Fullerton's or Papineau's mill. These he towed back down the lake with Verner and Solveig enjoying a ride on the raft of slabs.

With the help of a friend, Helge Ohlin, whom he had persuaded to come from Calgary, William was able to finish the slab house in time. Certainly it was badly needed because in October Asta caught a ride in to Wetaskiwin with Bob Ewart's mail-truck. On the 29th a pair of twin boys were born. Naming the boys proved a challenge for Verner and Solveig. Verner's choice was "Billy" after Billy Larson at Knob Hill and "Bobby" after George Moyer's old tom-cat. Apparently Mom Loov had also chosen Billy and Bobby but probably for other reasons. The older children still remember well the headlights of a car come shining down the trail to the house, with mother and the two babies being brought into the new house.

The first year's farming amounted to the little garden plus a start on a clearing on a bench on Mt. Butte above the house. The new clearing was done by going round and round with a three foot wide trench, throwing the dirt inwards into the previous trench. William had heard that to have really fertile soil the top 18" to 2' should be well mixed so that was how deep the



Verner Loov plowing the market garden on south side of Mt. Butte. Vegetables were dug one day, put in the creek overnight, packed in boxes and taken to Ma-Me-O, Occasionally stick worms in the creek ate into the radishes and ruined them; this was our routine every other day during vegetable season.



Asta Loov with her vegetables, about to board the Sunburst Bus with the help of Evan Vaughn the driver.



Loov Brothers with the first known Mobile plane headed for their first job in 1951.



Our log house at the foot of Mt. Butte beside the store of Battle Lake.



Load of lumber and the hazards of hauling lumber out of the west country over the everchanging Battle Lake Trail.



One tree made a load for Bill Phippen's team. Verner and Solveig Loov in charge in 1937.



W. Loov Family - William, Asta Solveig, Verner. In fron - the Twins Bill and Bob in about 1943.

trench was. A shovel was used to do the job with trees being cut out as he came to them. Some hay was also cut in some little natural meadows. This was also done by hand with a scythe and a wooden rake that was made for Asta to use. The Ford was traded for lumber and that was used to build a chicken-house dug partly into the hill.

William brought a few chickens along from Calgary hoping they could live on worms, bugs, grass and other food in the natural state. If they could have eaten all the mosquitos that plagued the family that first wet summer they probably would have grown quite fat. As it was, food (bran, shorts or grain) had to be brought out from Wetaskiwin on Bob Ewart's truck at \$.25 per hundred for freight. The next year the chickens did lay eggs but at the price of 5¢ per dozen from J.P. Nowell's store at Yeoford, the family couldn't eat any as they had to be sold to pay for their feed. The chickens eventually had to be killed when some diseased hens were bought at an auction sale.

Cows were a bit more successful. The first one was obtained by trading some beds and furniture to a Mr. Astner at Bittern Lake for a red and white cow which was named "Rosa" by the family. The first milking was quite an occasion for the city-raised kids. Having no milk pail meant that lard-pails and syrup cans had to be used. This kept the kids running back and forth to the house as William could fill them as fast as they could be carried to the house and emptied. Later, posts were traded for an old white cow dubbed "Samlamia" after a woman in Sweden. Some butter was traded at the store at the rate of 10¢ per pound. The herd eventually reached about 14 cows but these were sold in about 1946 in order to buy some hayland from Ed Young. The N.E. $\frac{1}{4}$ of Sec. 20 - 46 - 2 - W5 was what was bought. The intention was to buy back registered cattle but just after this, the price of cattle just about doubled and it was never done.

The lake and the bush provided much of the food for the first years. William could see fish jumping in the lake but for a time was frustrated by not being able to catch any as he had no hooks or lines. One day he had scraped up enough money to order a net from J. Leckie Ltd. in Winnipeg and that helped. The bush provided partridges and lots of rabbits as they were in the height of their cycle. In fact the first winter was spent in shooting rabbits, trying to save shells by lining up one behind the other when possible. He thought there was a market at the mink-farms but so did many others. In the spring Bob Ewart hauled a truck-load to Calgary but after deducting expenses he realized a profit of 25¢. Rabbit stew and roast rabbit was very common fare.

In 1934 Helge Ohlin built a little house for himself, across the creek behind the family house. This was partly dug into the ground, the rest being logs. Verner loved to sneak over in the mornings and have breakfast of pancakes fried in porcupine lard. That summer a large log house was built of black poplar logs. This house had two rooms downstairs and an attic bedroom. For awhile a dirt floor was used but this was later paved with slices of logs about 2 inches thick and fitted together. It did not turn out to be very satisfactory and was covered by lumber as soon as possible. A big event a year later was when Clifford Tuckey who had bought Yeoford store brought their new enameled cook-stove and helped to set it up. The roof was covered by birch-bark which had to have a layer of sod over it to prevent it from curling. This gave the house a nice cover of dandelions and pigweed every summer. The Ohlin house caved in about 1970.

An incident that happened that second or third winter in December occurred when there was a wedding on the adjacent farm to the east. A pair of bachelors that we called Parott and Rueben had lived there, but a young fellow, Frank Berge, had moved in and decided to marry a girl named Emma. Her father came up for the wedding. The next day her father was curious about fishing by net through the ice. Since the season was opening next day, William consented to demonstrate by putting in the net a little early. After the net was in, it was time for afternoon coffee so up to the house everyone went. Shortly there was a knock on the door. There stood a man in uniform. "Whose net is that down in the lake?" Nothing to do but go down and pull it up. There was already one whitefish in it which was confiscated and he did leave the net. "You may put it in anytime after midnight provided God provides the light!"

Fish were a staple part of the diet. Whitefish netted under a domestic license, throughout the ice in winter and from a boat in summer yielded much good food. These were improved by smoking and seemed to be well appreciated by company. The fish were split, spread with a small handful of salt on each one and left to soak in the brine overnight. Next day they were smoked by first a fairly hot fire ending up by dampening it down to make heavier smoke. About three smokehouses were lost by fire at different times.

There seemed to be a fair amount of interest in hockey so William built a rink on the lake in about 1934 or 35 with some help from the community. He had the job of keeping the snow off and Asta sold coffee and hotdogs. There certainly was a lot of snow that winter. Another project some winters was cutting ice for putting up in ice-houses. Ilo Bunney and a few others came for

ice. The large holes in the lake were a hazard to the cows and at least one drowned.

Transportation to Wetaskiwin was quite a problem. As noted above, rides were caught with the mail-truck. Then a busline started using a large car from Wetaskiwin to Winfield. This became Sunburst Motor Coaches. They put on a large Ford bus driven by Evan Vaughn. This opened up a market for vegetables at Ma-Me-O Beach. For a number of years to about 1941 the family raised vegetables, packed them up in large cardboard cartons and caught the bus to Ma-Me-O every Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Solveig and Verner became the sellers going from cottage to cottage pulling a child's wagon piled high with boxes of fresh vegetables. The highest sales for any day was about \$12.00 which was a lot of money at that time. Another partial quarter of land was bought from Timofeef, a Russian at the West end of Mt. Butte. A garden along the lake on that land expanded to five acres with produce being hauled home by boats.

Mr. Vaughn, the bus driver, must have had the patience of a saint to put up with the mud and the baggage. His nickname for Verner was sometimes "Dynamite" and sometimes "Lightning". William also used the bus taking along bags of vegetables to trade for groceries or other supplies in Wetaskiwin. At one time he even took along a pig in a crate. On one particular trip the driver noticed as he was headed west one evening that a small stream of something was running down the outside of the windshield. They stopped, went up on the full length roof rack to check and found that the lid had come off a 10 pound pail of Rogers Golden Syrup in William's groceries. Even after much steam-cleaning, for some years after, a small streak of syrup would run down the windshield on a warm day.

Clearing of land progressed from the axe and shovel to a machine -- a stump puller which was a drum anchored to a tree or large stump. It was turned, by having a horse hooked up to the end of a 14 foot beam. As the horse went round and round the cable would shorten, pulling a stump out if sufficient roots were cut. Some of the cleared land was broken by a four-horse outfit pulling a sort of walking-breaking plow driven by Dick Blake who then lived with Charley Donald and his family on the Berge place. It was quite a sight to watch the ploughing, especially in the swampy areas with the old tough tamarack roots. It seemed that there was always one of the four horses down.

At one time George Kimmy from Battle Lake offered to pull some stumps with his steam engine. He came one day with the engine followed by son Louis driving a wood wagon and son Elroy driving a water wagon. After a fair amount of preparation he backed up to a small birch stump, hooked on a chain and started to pull. All of a sudden the draw-bar broke, and as well, the chain in two places. When repairs turned out to be baling wire, William thought it might be a good idea to forget about the steam engine.



Wm. Loov grinding his axe. Bob turning the stone.

A few years later Burgess Fullerton and Norman Greenwall came in with a TD-18 bulldozer. The swamp was still soft but they managed to make a ditch along the East fenceline and after being stuck in the creek dozed a road between the lake and Mt. Butte. William had started the road using a shovel and a wheelbarrow he built. While he stood watching the roll of earth coming off the angled blade of the TD-18, he could not help but wonder how many shovelfuls of dirt there were.

William found some carpenter work to raise cash to keep the farm and family going. Some of the projects still remembered were; a garage for Burgess Fullerton when he had Yeoford store, John Garbauski's house and chicken-house, some building for Pete Garbauski, a machine shed for Bill Runte at Brightview (he married Martha Green) some barns east of Wetaskiwin and others including a basement for Colin Gillies when he moved Yeoford store up to the new highway. After the war started he worked on the army camp in Wetaskiwin. At this time too he cut logs for a new house. Ed Nadeau came in with his sawmill to saw them into lumber and the new house was started just east of George Maurer's along the highway. In 1940 and 1941 he also worked up North at Whitehorse and later along the Canol pipeline.

In 1941, the family abandoned the log house and moved into the new one. Water was piped in from the spring across the road. It was just across the line onto Maurer's land but he consented to allow it. This gravity system worked without expense or trouble. They were justly proud of their indoor bathroom and William was especially pleased that he could "go in to go out"! In this home an interesting thing happened to Bobby when he was in his early teens. The back porch covered the stairs to the kitchen and also to the basement. It was handy to throw

wood down into the basement entry to feed the barrel heater in the basement. One cold winter night Bob went down to fill the stove before bedtime. Suddenly a yelp was heard and Bob came up pale as could be. He said he had just reached through the door when there was a coyote face-to-face with him. An automatic hit with the block of wood in his hand was followed by a slam of the door. Investigation showed a freshly killed coyote lying on the wood.

As with other families schooling presented another problem. This was solved by correspondence lessons. Dad Loov expected noses to the grindstone in this department and was quite stern most of the time. One day in the spring when the fish were running, lessons were difficult for Verner and Solveig to concentrate upon. A compromise was arrived at. A table and chairs were put out by a shallow part of the creek. The agreement was that lessons would be worked at until a fish was heard splashing its way up the shallows. Then it could be caught and back to the lessons until the next fish was heard. After North Yeoford school was built, the Loov and Donald children walked the 2½ miles to it.

Solveig spent a year in Edmonton after Grade 9 then took a business education course at Calgary. There she got employment with Ingram & Bell, a drug wholesale firm. After Verner won the Grade 9 Governor-General's medal for Wetaskiwin and Strawberry School Divisions, he finished Grade 10 by correspondence, Grade 11 in Wetaskiwin in 1942-43 and Grade 12 by correspondence after the war in 1950-51. Bill and Bob finished their grades at Lakedell then went to Wetaskiwin for their high school. Bob continued on to University in Edmonton and California in engineering and after working for a pre-cast concrete firm in Calgary ended up with the University of Calgary in 1963. Verner also went to University starting in Edmonton in 1960 for 3 years starting teaching at Crooked Creek Alberta also in 1963. After getting his education degree in 1966, he went one more year specializing in counselling. He moved to Wetaskiwin as high school counsellor in August 1970.

Some logging and sawmilling had been done from time to time. Some helpers had been Wm. Phippen from down the lake, Arnold Bleakney from Yeoford. A fair amount of birch was cut for sleigh and wagon poles. The sawing was usually done by George Kimmy or Ed Nadeau. After the war when Verner was home again, a sawmill was bought. This was mounted on a frame of Birch timbers with two truck wheels under it. After some practice to learn how to saw, a considerable amount of custom sawing was done. It was at a job for Vic Fontaine of Battle Lake but west of Hoadley that the idea came for a mobile planer as well. Charlie Freeman had a planer but it was awkward to move and could not handle poorly cut lumber which could be found here and there. One night after supper the boys were cleaning up and Dad Loov was relaxing on his bunk. He said, "Why can't we put a planer on a truck?" After discussion there seemed to be many advantages but few disadvantages. Verner asked, "How are we going to do it?" to which the reply was, "I got the idea, you go ahead and do it." April 1, 1951 was the time the planer was bought. Business was so brisk that a second planer was bought in October and put to work that winter. The sawmill and two planers became the equipment of a new company, Loov Industries, Ltd. At this time Bud Tufts worked with the family quite a bit. Tufts now live at Warburg.

One by one the children formed families of their own. Solveig got married in 1947 to Abram Penner in Calgary. They lived in Wetaskiwin for some time where he was a Naturopath. They later moved to Edmonton where they are still living in 1971. Their children are Karin, Susan, and Roger.

Verner married in July 2, 1954 at Meeting Creek to Melba Olstad of Edberg. They lived at Mt. Butte until May 1955 going then with the first planer to Prince George where son Colin was born. Lumber yard work took them to the Hazelton and Kitwanga areas for 1956 to 1960, and resulting in two more sons, Donald and Gordon. After moving to Edmonton in 1960, a girl, Valerie was born and another son, Richard. During the stay in Crooked Creek, a second daughter Karin, was born in Grand Prairie.

Billy, or C.W. also married in 1954 on his 21st birthday in October to Elsie Karlstrom of Hoadley. They acquired a farm 4 miles east of Hoadley. Bill continued on with custom planing in the area west of Highway 2. Their children are son Walter and daughter Marie.

Bob married in Calgary, December 21st, 1963 to Cheselyn Tulloch, usually known as "Ches". By 1971 they had two daughters; Nancy, born in Calgary and Susanne, born in England while Bob was studying at Cambridge. In 1971 Calgary was again their home.

In 1955 William shut down the sawmill for spring break-up. After break-up he didn't feel well and after illness all summer passed away on August 8. Asta followed the next year after a series of strokes. Both are interred at Wetaskiwin Cemetery. Although both died at a relatively young age, they had certainly had an adventurous life. The Loov name should live on for some time.

Peddling vegetables at Ma-Me-O Beach was a major source of income for many years before the war until about 1940 and we children all took our turn at pulling that child's wagon heavily laden with vegetables. Also Dad wore out a good number of axes on that grindstone of ours with either Verner, Bill or I turning the handle. It was a tedious job that had to be done daily, and I can still feel the ache in my arms when I think of it.

STORY OF LUMBER OPERATION

LUMBERING

The author who has been a long time resident of the Wetaskiwin, Winfield, Breton area tells the story of the opening up this region by the oldtime lumbermen with rare skill and humour. As a member of one of the families of lumbermen who harvested the forests of this area and who knows and loves the smell of fresh sawn lumber and wood smoke, this story recalls many happy



Mr. Donovan Ross

memories for me. Those who may read Mr. Moseson's story will learn of the courage and determination, the hardships and privation, and the deep satisfaction of these hardy pioneers who represented a cross-section of the people who have made Alberta the great province it is. I would hope that for those of the younger generation who may read this story, that they will be challenged to provide an ongoing type of commitment to the way of life that these earlier pioneers laid out. My best wishes go to the author in his telling of the story of this particular area of Alberta.

J. Donovan Ross, B.A. M.D.
Minister of Lands and Forests

THE PIONEERS OF THE WEST COUNTRY, THE SAWMILLS

The story of them at Winfield, Buck Lake and Alder Flats

Before the White Men came to disturb the balance of nature, the prairies spread from the Lakehead towards the mountains drained by rivers that had their origin in the foothills; here the Saskatchewan River System. The traders with their posts came first; Edmonton and Rocky Mountain House in this area. The rivers were the arteries used to transport the commodities originally.

The first sawmills were in Edmonton. John Walters in 1875, D.R. Fraser in 1881, and the W.H. Clark mill a little later.

When I was asked to write a bit on the sawmills and woods operation covering the Winfield and Buck Lake area, there was one authority only I could see knew it from the beginning and that was my old friend, Bill Fraser. He knew Edmonton when there was less than 1500 people there.

I called him when I was in Edmonton last Friday and "the come on over" meant hours with Bill, Alice and Laura (Dons) wife. It was like old times to enjoy their hospitality and Alice's good cooking and to relive the past was wonderful. If one couldn't remember names, or people, the others did.

From the first until 1915, the mills in Edmonton were supplied by timber. Buck Lake up Buck Creek to the Saskatchewan; from Poplar or Modesta as it was sometimes called with dams at Norbuck and driving it during the spring run off to the Saskatchewan to Edmonton where the logs were sorted and each mill got their winters cut.

All went well until 1915 when there was a terrific flood that swept away mills, logs, and buildings that were in the way of the flood. Near Prince Albert in Saskatchewan, logs, even machinery was found. Chas Clark told me that a heavy piece of equipment was found on a sand bar in the river at Prince Albert and his father got a letter from people there wanting to buy same where it was. (People were really honest in those days).

To save the Low Level Bridge, we put two loaded trains on and it was a miracle that they and the bridge survived.

About 1923, the Lacombe and Northwestern railway came as far as Hoadley so a few mills started up again and they delivered there by teams in the winter. Roads were about non-existent and most all work had to be done in the winter.

Some of the mills that started early were Draders, Vogens, Knob Hill Sawmills, Carroll Bros., Sanford Nelson, Burrows, Alberta Box, Snell, Papineau.

THE D.R. FRASER LUMBER CO. LTD.

D.R. Fraser came to Edmonton in 1881 and built his mill on Fraser Flats in Edmonton.

They had timber berths out in this area and logged here from earliest days and their logs were driven down the Saskatchewan to Edmonton. Either from Buck Lake down Buck Creek to the river or from the banks of the Poplar or "Modeste", it's real name, were the routes. At Norbuck south of Fraser right where Art Burrows had his mill was the old dam that held back the spring run off so they could float the logs down the creek into the river.

All the river driving was done by a Mr. Rikker in the employ of John Walters. He did it for Clark Lumber as well. All the logs were stamped by their own brand and the logs were sorted out of the boom at Edmonton. Supplies were brought out by steamboats in the old days to the closest point on the Saskatchewan or by boat or canoe.

By this method they supplied Edmonton until 1915 when there was a terrible flood and logs, mills, homes and all on the flats went down the river. Walters never recovered from the blow.

Frasers had a retail yard on 97th Street when the railroad opened up the Hoadley, Breton section in 1926. Frasers was under the guidance of "Big Bill" Fraser and his brother Don. The office manager was little Bill Fraser. He was only an employee. The steam engineer was Bert Fee.



Easter Sunday Mar. 28, 1948.
Big Bill Fraser and Ebba Moseson at the Moseson home in Wetaskiwin.



Bill Fraser's mother
Mrs. D. R. Fraser,
93 years in 1948 and
Sandra Moseson.

The Frasers were born in Edmonton and Bill loved to tell of Edmonton where there was only 1500 people there.

I had met Bill and knew him slightly before 1933; but from then and until his death in the early summer of 1971, I felt privileged to call him and Alice some of my closest friends.

Fraspur got its name from the family and from that point they were able to clean up the old berths they had plus possibly Gov't timber. Bill could best tell of all the old berths and the country's history.

They had a very efficient facility of planing in the mills at Fraspur. They too like Ross tried cat trains. Theirs was steam, Rosses Lynn, Gas cats.

Trucks were getting heavier and better so we all ultimately used trucks.

The mills in the bush too were going through a transition as the steam oper-

ations needed larger blocks of timber and they were just as fast being depleted. We found patches here and there so smaller and less costly operations had to be employed.

Bill wanted reforestation and that something should be done then. Walter Carroll talked of quotas. I wanted Reforestation as in Sweden and fought for same but didn't just get to do what I preached.

When we heard that Bill had passed, Dr. Donavan Ross, then Minister of Lands and Forests attended Bill's funeral. We met many of the old timers. It was like closing a door on an era.

Today I have certain hobbies to keep up an interest in the present. Having lived by and been a friend of the Indians, I was honored a few years ago when they made me an Honary Chief "Eagle Wing". Now also Premier Lougheed and Premier Kosygen are chiefs of the same tribes.

Another interest is Rundle Mission of the United Church of Pigeon Lake. They were reading Rundle's Original Diary of 1844 at an early meeting there in early 1972. It was stated that Rundle Lao just baptised an Indian waif about 11 years old; and as he could not pronounce the Indian name, he named him John Samson. Maskapetoon, the great chief and Sampsons friend, were cousins.

In the old days on Buck Lake including Buck Mountain, Maskapetoon had been given a re

serve there for his private hunting and trapping grounds. It was dense timber. In the year of 1918, the flu epidemic killed off most all the Indians, so to them the land became taboo. Today Buck Mountain is a cattle pasture.

Where is our forest, our watershed, our once replenishable resources? We saw it demolished, wasted, and may some one see it must be reforested! Then we will be repaid for our concern, and others too! It will be harder to do the longer they wait.



Lumber piles and buildings at the Carl Johnson mill.



Hank Pearson (fur coat) and boys at camp in 1928.



A Steam Engine used at the Pearson mill.



Antross Ball Team at Antross Diamond. Front L. - R. Earl McNeil, Doug Ross, Less Anthony. Standing L. - R. Walter (?), Fred Austin, Milo Bowers, Mark Anthony, Louis Leary, John Reid.

We were high class (had uniforms). I even owned a pair of baseball spikes.



Joe Ross, father of Doug and Don Ross about 1941.



One of the Old Yellow Bellies Republic Trucks.



Standing on tractor is C.H. Ross On the ground nearest to tractor is Tom Suiter. Ink spiller Tram in background owned by Fred Becker.

In 1926, Mannix Construction had the contract to continue the construction of the railway and Winfield, Norbuck, Fraspur Antross, and Breton got the railway.

Many of the old berths that had been in existence from the first were still in existence.

Frasers put in their mill at Fraspur and cut their old timber holdings; at Antross; Ross and Beard, and Anthony cut some of the Walters timber.

At Breton Greenwood's were in for a few years, the Pearsons and Carl Johnson had their holdings, mostly Government timber. Carroll Bros. and Burrows cut first on Walters timber.

Etter and MacDougall came in from B. C. in 1932 and cut the MacDonald Timber berth possibly the biggest berth. They had their mill at the berth and the Planer in Winfield.



LINN #1 along road. Jack Shea, our road monkey for many years, is standing with shovel. He looked on the road as his road and really looked after it.



Ross Beard Lumber Haul-Crossing. Poplar Creek 1/2 mile from R.R. track. Buildings are part of W. Anthony Mill site. Large building back center is store and post office.



Ross Beard Mill - in bush 14 miles west of Antross.



Linn tractor hauling load of lumber from bush mill - Ross - Beard Co. to siding at Antross over high level bridge. Crossing "Big Moose" Creek.



Ross - Beard Planner Mill under Construction at R.R. in Antross. Early 30's.



W. Anthony Mill at Antross 1/2 mile from R.R. track on Poplar Creek.

From 1933 to 1950 I cut timber from Winfield to North of Alder Flats. It was all hauled to Wetaskiwin where I had a Planing Mill and Lumber yard.

Many others had small operations and sold their lumber to the larger mills. To mention some that I bought rough lumber from were the Fontains, Letourneau, Skogmans, Nadeaus, Kisses, Oulton, Rossiter, Dragon and Rooke. I also bought from Ted Johnson.

It was a colourful era putting a few dollars in the pockets of those who tried to survive in the 30's. the 40's were some better and then oil was struck in 1947. The unfortunate thing was that the timber was all but gone with no thought for the future. Oil for some, bridged the gap and for some has given a good livelihood.

There were some who proposed selective logging, Bill Fraser in particular, giving the forest through natural reforestation to perpetuate the one replenishable resource we have.

In 1935 Rev. Wingblade, our M. L. A., and I went to see the Hon. N. E. Tanner, the

then Minister of Lands and Forests, and I translated a letter from an uncle in Sweden, then retired, suggesting a delegation come to Sweden and see what they had done in the last 100 years. They now have $2\frac{1}{2}$ times as much timber as then and utilizing everything and cutting far more now than then. All by reforestation.

Today if we had conserved our forests and reforested our grey wooded soil, we would have a perpetual asset that would be our watershed as well as an industry forever.

In 1948 I ran for parliament, had I been elected I had convinced the party in power that we should reforest.

Oil, coal, and minerals when taken out of the ground does not grow again. What Bill Fraser and I have preached and others too; we may not see it started, but may some of you take up the fight and see it an accomplished fact. It's done elsewhere. Do it here!

In writing of the mills since 1926, I will start with Breton. Hank Pearson, now living in Salmon Arm, B.C., has written and supplied me with the following material with the data he has to the best of his ability.

The Breton Lumber Co. started in 1928 consisting of Swan Swanson, and Mr. Greenwood Sr. and his two sons Terry and Phil. That company dissolved in 1928.

In 1927 the Pearsons unloaded a Large Steam Engine on Mr. Anthony's platform at Antross. They drove it the $6\frac{1}{2}$ miles N.W. to their holdings. The Pearsons ran a successful operation until they ran out of timber about 1950.

Another operator there was Carl Johnson who operated successfully but had the misfortune one year of burning up a half million feet of lumber and in those depression years, that was a real blow as no one could afford to insure the lumber.

Carl for some years later on had the Breton Hotel. He has supplied pictures which depict the neat manner in drying lumber and some of their jovial moments.

At Antross was the Anthony mill. They ran a nice operation. Mark Anthony is supposed to live in Penticton but I have not been able to get a story from him but Hank Pearson writes of a humorous incident. He says with regards to Mr. Anthony, "I first met him in the winter of 1927 - 1928. Mr. Anthony was very fond of sports, his sons Mark and Les followed hockey and baseball and they went everywhere there was a game going. They had a team at Antross called the Pinecats. Were you a ball player you would have preference for a job in the summer and if you were a hockey player, you got the preference in the winter. Hank worked for the Anthony's in 1930 and of course they played at all the tournaments. One of these was at Leduc and the final game rained out and so the purse was split.

One of the players went celebrating so on the way home to the camp, they had to smuggle him home. This was done by placing him in the bottom of the wagon box covered with hay and flowers. They had to use wagons to ford the Poplar Creek. We thought we did a good job of getting him unobserved into the bunkhouse.

Mr. Anthony was one who objected to indulging. Some months later we wanted to attend another tournament and after finally getting consent from Mr. Anthony, he gave us to understand that no ballplayers were to be smuggled home covered with flowers! He knew our secret all the time."

The large and outstanding operation at Antross was Ross and Beard, Joe Ross was father to the Hon. Donovan Ross, Minister of Lands and Forests. When I asked him to give me the story of the operation he referred me to his brother Douglas Ross of Vernon, B.C. He is a Registered Forester there. I will relate the story in the manner he told me. Joe Ross, his father, and Chas Beard moved into the area in 1926 and 1927. It was necessary to build 14 miles of road from the railroad at Antross to Buck Creek, west of the Lacombe Northwestern Railroad at Antross. The following is quoted from the letter received from Mr. Ross.

Ross-Beard Mill Camp on Buck Creek. About 1925-1926.

The U.F.A. Gov't in power at that time would not put up any money for the road so we had to do it on our own.

Our M. L. A. at that time was Charlie King, a wonderful guy from the Funnel area, and we used to buy a lot of pork from him for the cook house. Chas Cuinsman also supplied most of the vegetables, while hay and grain for the horses was brought in by the oldtimers from the Lindale area.

I was working at the mill and planer from 1928 until 1934 so was in on most of it. We however operated through out the depression and although we didn't make much money, we did live and helped others to eat through that period. My first trip from Lacombe to Breton on the old L.N.W.R.R. (Alta.) Government took 14 hours to go the 65 miles.

There were two hotels in Breton, the Breton, run by a Mr. Mitchell and the Pioneer where you went upstairs by a ladder behind the cookstove. Mr. Breton owned the Hardware store. Our chief engineer at the mill was Frank Martin from Wetaskiwin and the night engineer and night watchman was Bill Ellis, who incidently ran a short trap line by lantern and looked after the pigs comfort all night. All mills kept some pigs to look after the swill.

We had a compulsory laundry at the mill in order to keep things clean and this was looked after by Mrs. Victor Hanson, and her daughter Anna for some years. Victor and the boys, Harold, Nels, Gunnar and Carl, were falling trees in the bush. The Hansons were a wonderful family and I think that some are still in that area. Old time camp cooks we had were Geo Harper, and Dave Mathews. Bush bosses we had were wild Bill Martin, Jack Gibson and others.

Geo Kimmey and Sig Haggquist and others sawed at the mill. Tommy Suiter was the ink spiller at the office. We produced up to 60-65 thousand per shift. The lumber was mostly sold through Ross-Smith Wholesale Lumber Co. (H.H. Ross and Norman Smith) and we usually cut out about 3 million for Capitol City Box run by Oliver McIntyre. Our timber was bought mostly from the Alberta Gov't. with some from the Hudson Bay (Mr. Bird being their man).

Logging - All skidding was done by horses. For a number of years logs were hauled by horses, then later with old gas cat "20" and "30"'s. Then at the end with the use of a Linn Tractor and sleighs (see pictures).

Lumber haul - Lumber at first was hauled the 14 miles with 4 ups then Cats, then later tried old hard tired Republic Trucks known as "Yellow Bellies," and finally with the Linn Tractors and sleighs. We hauled up to 50 M.B.M. per train, using hay to break on the little hills, and rough locks on the steeper grades. Jack Shea, the road monkey for many years, had a pride in the road and called it "his road".

Practically all the logging took place in the winter months due to muskeg and soft ground. Bill Anthony decked a summer cut of logs along the banks of Poplar Creek and sawed them out during the summer months.

During this period the main relaxation was baseball and Antross, Breton and Battle Lake fielded ball teams, as well as Strawberry Hill.

Johnny and Frankie Sheppard of the Black Hawks and Red McCusker of the Calgary Councils also had a team at Pigeon Lake where they ran businesses during the summer months, between hockey seasons.

We used to play exhibition games with them at Pigeon Lake to draw crowds for the Sheppard Bros. and Red. We also played Wetaskiwin. At that time Wetaskiwin had Chief Jimmy Rattlesnake and Red Beatty playing for them. Hank Pearson pitched for Breton, and Mark Anthony and Barney Lee pitched for Antross. I played shortstop for Antross and also had a Breton uniform as I played field for them sometimes when our games didn't cross. During some of the tournaments when our games didn't cross, I played a lot of games, I remember the fellow who pitched for Strawberry Hill, pitched 29 innings during one tournament. I was glad to hear Jimmy Rattlesnake was still around. He was a wonderful athlete. He was a good pitcher and also clouted a few good home runs.

Dad did no doubt give Slim Gibson and Dave Mathews a few lectures. Jack certainly needed them as he was not too nice a person, but his daughter, who married the Willets boy, was very nice. I don't know what ever became of the boy.

Dave Mathews was a real character and a wonderful guy. He had a homestead on the Poplar Creek quite close to our planer and lived there and cooked at the planer during the summer. He fought a running battle with the railroad over a settlement for the railroad going through his property.

Every once in a while when he got steamed up on some of his home brew, he would lie down in the middle of the track and stop the train. He would tell them to go back to Lacombe until they paid him. The railroad finally got tired of this game and Dave wound up being fined \$50.00

at Breton for attempted suicide (lying down in front of the train). It ended the incidents as \$50.00 was hard to come by in the 30's, and Dave liked to go to Edmonton every once in a while to renew acquaintances with the gang, and had to use the railway.

One summer Dad decided to take a three week holiday and went out to the coast with mother, leaving me to look after things while he was away. I woke up one Sunday morning and the breakfast gong hadn't gone and it was past Sunday breakfast time so I went over to the cook house to investigate. Dave was standing in front of the stove well lit up. I asked him when breakfast would be ready and he said, "She will be ready pretty soon as it's all on the stove." This was true, the coffee pots were on the stove, bread spread on the stove to toast, eggs broken into the frying pan to be fried, and the bacon in the oven in pans. I looked it over then said to Dave, "It might be better if you lit the stove. Dave almost fell over backwards but got busy lighting the fire and eventually we had breakfast. A great old character.

I might just mention that we had 48 sets of sleighs which were all built by hand at the mill to haul behind the Linn tractors. The runners were all birch as well as the tongue and benches. There were 7 foot runners on the sleighs, with 10 foot bunks. Andy (yes, yes) Olsen was the blacksmith who did all the iron work for the sleighs and Archie Collins was the wood butcher who did all the wood work. The sleighs were very well built, to stand up to real loads.

Another person who worked for us for a good part of the time was "Mack", Micky MacDonald, a mechanic. Mack as we always called him, had been a deisel expert in the submarines in the American Navy in the first world war. He was married to a girl from Wetaskiwin. Her dad a Silver Fox Farm near the Water Tower in Wetaskiwin.

Jack Bowman was the name of the Forest Branch Man that used to come out, to look over our logging at Antross. He travelled by team and democrat.

While I am still reminiscing, will just add a few lines. Snells Mill, which was on Pigeon Lake just north of Crystal Springs where we still have a summer home, built and bought from Snell in the early 30's.

Snell himself was quite a Rube Goldberg and had what I imagine was one of the first Dry Kilns made for drying his lumber. He made use of the steam from his mill for heat and it must have been the forerunner of the dry kilns of today.

It didn't work too good as it dried out the lumber too fast and all the knots dropped out. We used to call it Snells knot hatchery. Bill Fraser thought it would be a good idea to pick up all the knots and put them in sacks to ship along with the lumber. All Characters!"

The next operation south was Fraspur. June the 6th, 1971 we got word that Big Bill had passed away. Dr. Donovan Ross and I attended his funeral. We there met quite a few of the old-timers at the well attended funeral.

Art Burrows had his mill at Norbuck south of Fraspur. It was on the Poplar Creek. There was an old Dam there from the days of the Walters operation. It gives one an idea of the immense job they did at that time out in the wilderness. It was rugged going and long hours for very little pay. It took real men to do the job.

The Carroll Bros. in Winfield were good operators. Walter in Winfield and Gerald running a lumber yard in Calgary is what their present occupations are. Walter was a good machinist and always coming up with something new. Last year at Ma-Me-O Beach I met Walter and his wife and we talked of the country since early times and he wished it would be written up. At least from 1875. Just lately I had a letter from Walter, his wife died last winter and Gerald died recently in Calgary.

Draders are real old timers and Fred and his wife who live at Buck Lake will be giving the story of their family. Alberta Box ran for the first few years and then they quit.

Anderson and Eliasons had a mill a few miles east of Winfield. They burnt up shortly after 1933 and also they ran out of timber.

In 1932 the last big operator came in, Etter-McDougall. They had their planer in Winfield and having bought the MacDonald Timber berth south west of Alder Flats, they ran the largest operation. They, for years were the lifeblood of Winfield.

They originated south of Fernie, B.C. and then had been at Shere, B.C. before coming here. Geo Moore and many of their key personel are gone and I have recommended that Alex Danyluk who sawed for them and their bush foreman Henry Brown write their version on the operation. Others maybe should have been included but time has gone and our memory is not too good any more.

Paul Moseson

PAUL MOSESON LUMBER LTD

In the fall of 1920, four young fellows from the Malmo District, east of Hobbema by 10 miles, undertook a hunting trip to the west country in a Model T Ford truck with solid rubber tires and all the paraphernalia loaded. They were Paul Moses at the wheel, Art Whitfield, Sam Svensen and Vern Billster. We got out to Carl Baileys farm 7 miles west of Winfield. We got his team and wagon. Our first stop was at the old Rikker logging camp north of Buck Lake where Buck Creek left the lake and flowed to the Saskatchewan. They had a dam to hold back the water in the lake until they could drive the creek on the high waters. The last drive was in 1915. That was a day and night operation until the logs arrived in Edmonton.

One who followed the drive until 1915 was a Nels Sondell who told his nephew, John Holmlund of Falun, the hardships, how they were soaking wet from the start to the finish cutting holes in their boots so the water could run out, riding rafts, eating and getting snatches of sleep when they could. This often took well over two weeks.

With no success there, we continued to the Wolfe River and down to Tippings. There we met the old gentlemen and his son Dalt and daughter Mary.

After getting our moose, they showed us how to get to the Saskatchewan. From that start I had a love for the forests and hunted until 1950.

In 1933 I became interested at Knob Hill Sawmills; but that timber was about depleted and the mill burnt.

In my years of hunting and buying some lumber, I had made friends with many of the early settlers of the country west of Winfield, Buck Lake and Alder Flats.

Most of our operations being to the north west of Buck Lake and north of Alder Flats gave me a large area in which to meet people. We also bought lumber from small operators and found here and there small berths, either moved in a small mill or put in sub contractors.

Both in hunting and logging Carl Bohning was a master and lover of nature. He went with me to Field, B. C. until our operations there ceased. He and Tom Somers of the forestry branch and I looked for timber on horseback, air, every way we knew but it was fast being depleted.

Roy Pye, Sigvard Haggvist, Henning Anderson, Mrs. Larson in the cook house plus many more were our staff. We put in our time doing the best we could under the worst depression years for hardly any pay. I always tried to make the best of it.

One thing I did was to purchase a Bell and Howell sound projector and each Friday night we put on a show in the Cook House. Everyone in the district came; practically hung in the rafters. Mrs. Larson would make a big cake and coffee was served to all before they started for home in their sleighs, often in bitter cold weather.

On occasion I would put on a show at Frasers or Rosses and even the Winfield Hotel.

I had a 750 watt light plant in the car trunk. I got the film from the Extension Department of the U. of A. and the National Film Board.

Now Sen. Don Cameron, who then was director of the Extension Department of the University couldn't believe how much it was appreciated and to what extent. He came out and took in a show and stayed overnight with me. He then had to believe what I told him.

In 1954 I was offered a Senate appointment. My involvement in Oil and Lumber made it impossible for me to accept.

In 1955 Don got the appointment staying on with the Banff School of Fine Arts. In 1967 he retired there.

In those first years, \$30.00 a month and board was tops for working men. I bought lumber from some of the small operators. They often paid their men with lumber per month. I then hauled to Wetaskiwin to plane and haul to the customer selling at \$25.00 per month.

In 1935 I started my lumber yard here in Wetaskiwin. The doors on the shacks at the camps were of various heights. Slim Johnson was over 6'6". He often forgot himself and banged his head.

Snell built a Walking Tractor. His theory - it would step over stumps or other obstructions. He hadn't consulted with the stumps so they didn't know where they should be.

Again Dave Mathews. He was cooking for us and I brought out sugar in the 100 lb. bag. Dry fruits 25lb. boxes, etc. It wasn't getting on the table as it should and came back in gallon crocks. Some of the crew enjoyed its delights with Dave until a stop was put to it. As the 30's were gone and the 40's came, prices improved. The war was on, demand improved. Keep up with sales with three mills in a two mile area at Alder Flats, ours, Rossiters and Oultons was a task.

Came 1947 and discovery of oil. I had 10 million feet in Dry Yard at Wetaskiwin. Then Atlantic 3 went wild. Imperial Oil wanted lumber, sawdust, shavings, and they hired me to fill the need. We hauled shavings, sawdust and I knew every sawdust pile in the west country. I had all the trucks available hauling to kill the well. I had stocks of materials in their yards at Rail Head and Devon. For months we hardly slept.

I filled orders for the Drilling fraternity, Big Timbers, Plank, Etc.

We got into Oil and Drilling. Lumber was about gone out west in 1950.

I got an original berth in Field, B.C., took most of the men from here out there (Bohning S. Thibeou, J. Speakman, Mrs. Larson, Nadeau's, Fivelands). There the problems were different, Engleman Spruce, 350 years old, 10-16 foot logs in a tree, overmature, rot at butt or half ways up otherwise beautiful lumber, clear. This should have been cut 150 years ago.

Yesterday I was out to Winfield (June 10, 1972). There I talked to Gordon Beatty who grew up with Gerald Carroll. We talked of the past and how Walter Carroll wanted them to go on a quota basis, maybe 4 million to him a year. Eddie Unter spent years with Art Burrows first; then Etter-MacDougall. We talked of the hardy old pioneers first those that supplied Edmonton from here, then those that came out and settled here and have made it their home.

Mrs. Starr Beck. I would stop and visit with her and Starr, talk of him before the mast of the Bluenose with Captain Walters.

At Buck Lake we met so many friends, then to the Gas Plant. This will outlast us but in 25 years the products produced there will be gone and the millions of years it took to place it there is used up.

Then to Alder Flats, an old stamping ground. I walked in to Sam Thibeou's yard. They had to drill for water 299 feet. Water, if we had conserved our forests, would be at the surface.

Then to my old pal Carl Bohning. He wanted us to go down to the homestead. Take pictures of the old log home covered with antlers and other old artifacts is what we did. He knew where there was a big 4 or 5 lb. trout just waiting for the frying pan. How I'd like to go out and stay. I love it there.



Left - Chief Yellowbird
Right - Hon. Chief "Eagle Wing"
Paul Moseson.



P. Moseson Hunting Party, 1920



Jack Bowman, Ranger in
1920.



Lumber trucks in 30's and 40's.



Jim Speakman, Carl Bohning, Sam Thibeou, Moseson camp in Field, B.C.



Etter McDougall Camp

GENE ETTER AND JACK McDUGALL LUMBER INDUSTRY

Gene Etter and Jack McDougall came to the district in early 1931 and jointly established a large sawmill several miles south west of Buck Lake, on S.E. 19-45-6-5, this land is now owned by Ray Tompkins. They acquired the McDonald Block of timber, a large number of square miles. This site was known as Camp One.

Some of the men who worked on the mill and bush crews and stayed for many years were - George Moore, Sandy Grant, George Stady, Greg Taylor, Alex Danyluk, Joe Laczko, Harry Thomson, Ivan Bjur, Johnson McDermid, Emile Schwartz, Jim McPhee, Ray Tompkins, Henry Brown, Dan Haley. The cooks were - Mr. and Mrs. Ed Peterson. Some of those that worked in the office were - Gene Drader, Fred Esher, Mrs. Helen Tompkins and Ed Hunter. Almost every homesteader in the surrounding area worked at Camp One at one time or another. There were too many to mention all the names.

In the winter of 1937-38 the camp workers went on strike, presumably for higher wages, this strike lasting about one month. Many people were without work and as a result a soup kitchen was set up in Winfield.

Skidding of logs to the sawmill at Camp One was done by thirteen "cats" and it took four trucks to haul them. Six or seven large trucks were kept busy hauling lumber to the planer mill at Winfield, this planer was also owned by Etter-McDougall and was known as Camp Two. Some of the long time drivers of these trucks were Henry Brown, Jim Miller, Marvin and Nubs Becker, Aron Brown, Louis Gillespie and Hank Goltz, there were also several others of a shorter duration.

In 1939 they had a fire which started in the log decks, however only the logs were burned. Near the end of 1942 another fire completely destroyed the sawmill. It was re-built and was in operation again by the summer of 1943. Lumber at this sawmill was sawed both winter and summer. Hauling lumber in the summer was quite a problem due to very bad roads, to solve this, a plank road was built for a distance of $3/4$ of a mile so the trucks could get over a bad spot.

Camp One finished operating on this site in 1945 and was moved south west of Alder Flats, near the east bank of the North Saskatchewan river. This new site was known as Camp Nine and operated until the spring of 1951. In the latter part of 1951 the mill was sold and moved to Field, B.C. Paul Moseson bought most of the mill.

In the winter of 1940-41, Etter-McDougall built another sawmill west of Alder Flats, close to the Saskatchewan river, this was Camp Six. There were quite a number of other camps belonging to Etter-McDougall in this area and they were numbered in the order they were established. These were the logging camps.

During the winter of 1944, about 50 German Prisoners of World War II were working at Camp One and they were guarded all the time.

The first long logs in Alberta to be hauled from the bush to the sawmill was at Camp Six in 1942. On an average, about 100,000 ft. of lumber were sawed per day at Camp one (at peak about 13 million ft. per year. Camp Six and Nine operated only during the winter months as roads were not good enough for hauling lumber to the planer mill during the summer months.

Etter - McDougall Saw Mill

1941

Names: Top L. to R. - Not known, Jimmy McFee, Joe nar, Billy Moore, Mike Swiowski, Arnie Trusset, not known, Sandy Grant, Whitman Moore, Red McKinnon, Kukur-usniak, George Stady, not known, Joe Lacz, Jimmy Miller, the rest not known.



Truck drivers Clyde Lamb, Ray Becker, Hank Goltz



The Road and Bridge crew after the flood in '43. Building the bridge on Wolf Creek are Dan Haley, Julius Vargar, Bill Ives, Fred Essher, Scotty McKenzie, Jimmy McFee, Emile Swartz.



Log decks on Poplar Creek below dam. Burned out in 1923. Rickers logging in 1908-1913. Logs were floated to Edmonton.



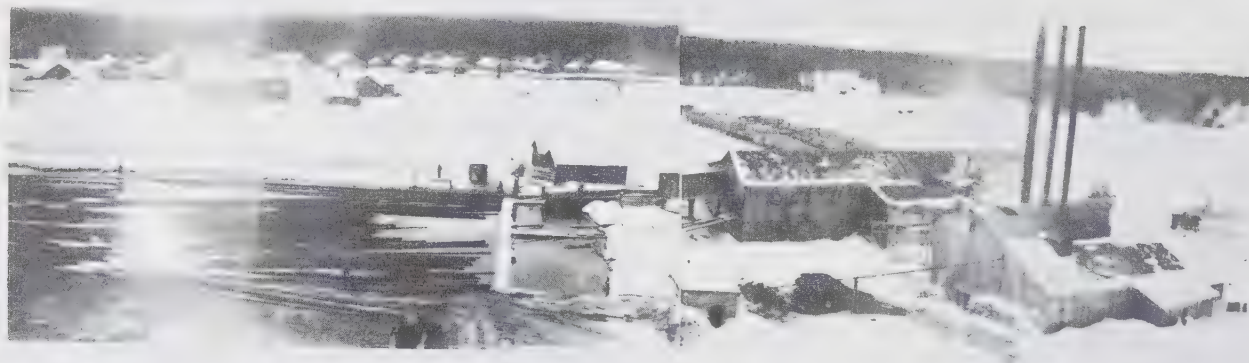
Lumber Haul in 1947.



Retail yard off to a good start with over 50 thousand out before dinner.



In 1946, camp north of Alder Flats.

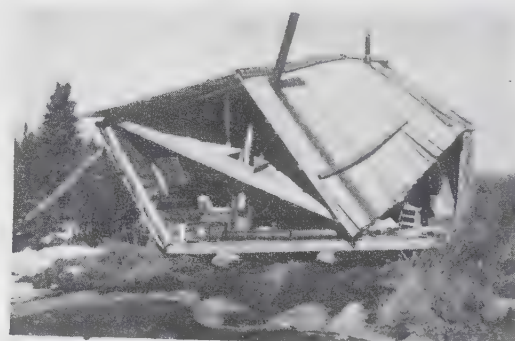


Etter-McDougall's Camp Nine Site.

Etter-McDougall's Camp Nine Site. Site.



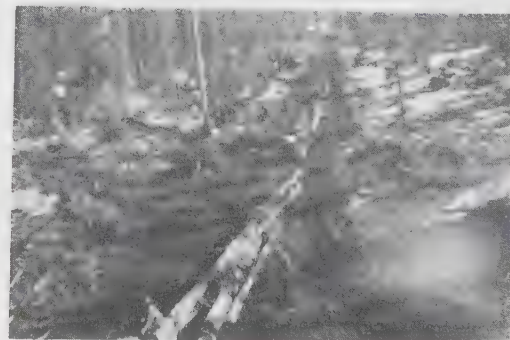
First Road from Camp Nine. Helen Tompkins and mother, Mrs. Marie Hawney.



House moving time—from Camp 1 to Camp 9



German Prisoners of War - Camp 9



Work at Etter-McDougall lumber camp 9.



Log decks at Etter-McDougall's Camp 1.

EMILE LETOURNEAU

Emile Letourneau with his wife Emma and four children, Raymond, Cecile, Hector and Delia came from Legal to the Pendryl district the summer of 1932. They built a sawmill and started a logging operation. In 1933 they started operating the sawmill. The times then were hard and they had some men working only for their room and board and tobacco money. They set this mill up in bush country and many roads had to be built. The school was two miles away and most of the time their children had to walk to school. Sometimes they went with their neighbors children and rode horseback to the school. These neighbors lived on a farm a mile away. They were wonderful neighbors and also had four children of almost the same age as the Letourneau children. This was the Betlamini family.

The logging was done with horses and the logs were sawed down by men with cross cut saws. The logs would then be hauled or dragged to the sawmill with horses, piled in huge piles and then sawed into rough lumber. This lumber was then hauled by trucks to a planer mill in Winfield, 12 miles away. The sawmill was able to saw about 15 thousand feet of lumber per day. Emile Letourneau sold this rough lumber to Etter-McDougall Lumber Co. They were a larger sawmill operator and owned several sawmills.

In the fall of 1937 Emile Letourneau moved his sawmill to the Maywood district. The mill was situated at the mouth of Muskrat Creek on the S.E. Shore of Buck Lake. The logs were cut down at the North end of the lake and dumped onto the ice on the lake in the winter time. In spring when the ice was gone, they were boomed and tugged to the sawmill across the lake by a scow. This was an exciting event as sometimes the weather was bad. At these times the booms would



Mrs. Emile Letourneau,
Mrs. Frnak Willows, about
1938.



Spring on Modesta Creek. L. to R.: Joe
Walters, Emile Letourneau, Joe Bougie,
Philip Prefontaine. In front - Dealia, Ray-
mond, Cecile, and Hector Letourneau.



Letourneau's sawmill at May wood.



Buck Lake Flood - 1944 at Letourneau's
mill.

break and the men would have to round the logs up. The scow was able to pull approximately three thousand logs in one trip. While in this location the logging was done during the winter and the sawing during the summer months.

In the winter of 1940 - 41, Etter-McDougall built a larger sawmill west of Alder Flats and Mr. Letourneau was hired to build it. This was also rough country and a lot of the roads had to be built. In 1943 Mr. Letourneau sold his sawmill at Maywood to Etter-McDougall and moved it to Brule Alberta. In the fall of 1943 he came back to operate Etter-McDougall's Camp Six sawmill.

The war was on then and during the winters of 1943-44 and 1944-45 about forty German prisoners of War were sent out to work in the mill and logging camps of Camp Six. These prisoners were housed in the bunk houses along with the other men.

Mr. Fraser bought Camp Six from Etter-McDougall in 1950 and Mr. Letourneau continued to operate the sawmill until 1954. This mill was closed then and much smaller sawmills were left to clean up the remaining logs.



Mill Crew at Letourneau's Mill at Pendryl - 1933.
L. to R. Top - Art Nicholson, Jim Willows, Pete
Soder, Bill McFadden, Joe Schriber, Bob Willows,
Frank Willows, Mac Fraser, Alf Burkland,,
L. to R. Bottom - Gene Scherlie, Rice (?), Dick
Clemmer, Raymond Letourneau, Ralph Sowles,
Ricky Street, Annie Schriber, Mrs. Letourneau,
Mr. Letourneau, Chris Anderson.

MRS. HELEN McLAUGHLIN

July, 1911 was the time when we arrived from Montana to our homestead in what was then called Yeoford. Father, Mr. Mahoney, had filed on our place in 1910 but due to my mother's illness, we were not able to come sooner. There were seven of us and we all stayed at Mr. A.C. Bunney's farm for a few days while Dad went in to cut out a road and put up what we called our cook shack. It consisted of a floor and sides about three feet high. Later we were able to borrow a tent from Mr. Tatroe at the Yeoford store. We slept under the stars at first. Later when we had the tent to sleep in, a terrible rain storm with wind caused us all to get up and hang onto the tent. In the morning everything was soaked. Mother had brought a very large box of crackers and they were swelled up and had fallen over the floor. Everything was great fun for us children who had never been out of the city. I had a horseback ride one day and told mother after that, that I didn't think this country agreed with me because I was stiff all over. We saw a wild rabbit and chased it all day. We thought it was a tame one that got away. Dad had a neighbor come to help him put up a one room shack of windfall logs with a sod roof. This served the whole family until another room was added a few years later. The first winter Dad worked at Rickerts mill for \$30.00 a month, about 7 miles north of Winfield now. He walked through the bush as there were no trails or roads. The first Christmas a brother was born but there were no gifts, candy or fruit. We had no money for these things and we had no conveyance and we were 50 miles from Wetaskiwin. My folks were real pioneers as they never complained about anything. We had bread and lard, some dried fruit which was cheaper in those days, and the following year we got a cow. That was a real thrill and when Mother made a milk pudding thickened with flour, we could hardly wait for it to cool. We cleared a place for a garden but because the top soil had been burned off a few years previously, it took years to have a good garden. Our first carrots were finger size and the potatoes like marbles but they were washed and cooked together as is and we all seemed to grow and thrive on plain food. Two years later a brother came on New Year's Day and mother raised him on oatmeal gruel.

There was lots of rain and cold winters in those early years. Winters are milder now.

A school was built about 1913 or 14 and we walked $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles and enjoyed it. Because many of the settlers were from Seattle, the school was called by that name.

Father enlisted (1914 - overseas 1915-1918) just after my sister was born, making four boys and four girls. Mother cleared land, raised good gardens and we all enjoyed our home and the wonderful country. There was wild game, deer, moose and lots of rabbits. Coyotes howling at night and coming in close to play with the dog, and red fox chasing the partridge and prairie chickens. We had good neighbors and there was visiting back and forth. Since everyone cut their own road, they were narrow with many mud holes. When we at last got a team of oxen, Dad made a trip to Wetaskiwin for supplies and was gone nine days. Dad was lucky to have a set of blocks and he could unhitch the team and get on good ground, fasten the blocks to the tongue and a tree and pull the load through the mud without having to unload it and carry it across as some people did. I still have the blocks, a reminder of how times have changed. There was tragedy too when a neighbor's boy of five years wandered into the bush and although every available person hunted through the bush, he was not found for several days and had died of exposure due partly to some rain and his light clothing.

We had our cow shot when it was mistaken for a bear.

When father returned, he had a soldiers grant on which the hamlet of Winfield was built.

My husband Mack and I spent $2\frac{1}{2}$ years (1924-1927) in Montana and came back on the railroad to Winfield. There were several buildings then including a store and Post Office.

Also during the time we were away, Mr. Elliason and Mr. Anderson had started a sawmill (1925 or 26) three miles east of Winfield. They also started a Sunday School in the Knob Hill district. This resulted in a church being built in the early 1930's. This was a real lighthouse for many, and many good times were had there. This I consider to be the highlight of all the years spent in the district east of Winfield. Mr. John Bergstrom was the first pastor there. I thank God for all those happy years when everyone seemed to be satisfied with "whatsoever things he had".

Some settlers who arrived in 1910 and 1911 in the Yeoford area were Mr. Sam Snoddy and family, his brother Jim all from England, Mr. and Mrs. Bunker and family, Frank Ward, Mr. and Mrs. Philip Ginther and family, Mr. Anderson and family, Henry Miller and wife, Mr. McLean, Mr. Carl Wick and family and brother August, Mr. Mahoney and family. The Post Office opened in Mr. McLaughlin's home called Knob Hill. He also took over mail route from Yeoford to Minnihek at Buck Lake. Mr. Tatroe had the Post Office and store at Yeoford. He later sold to Mr. J.P. Nowell and family from England.

The church was built by gratis work and the Eliason-Anderson saw mill had donated all the lumber. Mr. Eliason had carried on a Sunday School for a number of years in the community hall and in a home. Several ministers carried the work on after Mr. Bergstrom left for another field. Mr. Albert Koch, Mr. Fred Schimke, Mr. D. Davidson, Mr. Josephson, Mr. Campbell and Mr. Erickson were some of these until the church was moved a few miles to Warburg.

The community hall was also built by gratis work in the 20's. Some cut the timber, others hauled them to a mill to be sawed into lumber. There was a good community spirit in those days as evidenced by the large hall and later the church. Mr. Chinell Sr. had donated the site for the church on his farm. This district was called Knob Hill and the Post Office was located on the McLaughlin homestead. Later Mr. Bunker and then Mr. Stone took over the Post Office.

First Meeting of Winfield Maccabee Lodge



The picture above was taken outside the theatre following the first meeting of the Maccabee Lodge in Winfield. The lodge was organized in 1938.

Florence Chesterman and Lyle Lyster were married April 13, 1955 at Red Deer. They lived at Red Willow until April, 1958 and then moved to Grandfather's old farm (Job Jame's) where they still live. Their children are - Reginald born in Stettler Nov. 20, 1955, James born in Stettler Feb. 5, 1957, Carol born in Rimbey Nov. 13, 1959, Stuart born in Rimbey April 1, 1961, Marian born in Rimbey July 13, 1962, Ruby born in Breton Oct. 27, 1967.

ARCHIE McCALLUM

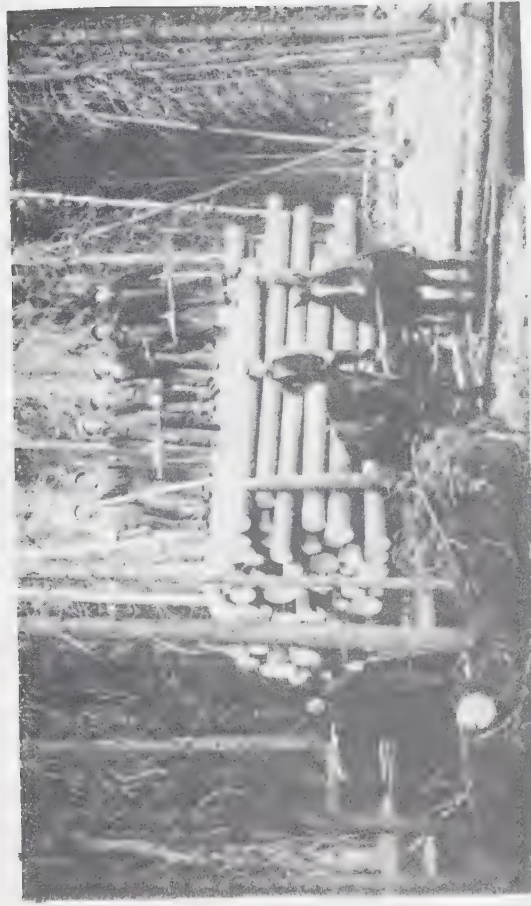
Archie and Elizabeth McCallum were both born in Scotland. They lived for some time in Manitoba then came to Saskatchewan where they only got one crop out of three so they then came to Alberta. One son David was born June 22, 1946 in Edmonton and he still works there in W.W. Arcade. They came to S.W. 24-46-3-W5 in 1961 where they still reside.

CHARLES MacCALLUM

My father, Charles MacCallum was born May 14, 1886 in Nobinway, Michigan. At the age of 22, he married my mother, Elizabeth Gemmel. They had four children, three of which were born in Michigan; Leon, Evelyn and Lillian. Kenneth was born after Dad and Mother moved to Piapot, Saskatchewan in 1917. My mother died at the young age of 25 years so our family was left without a mother.

Dad decided it would be best to let Kenneth and I, being the youngest, go with my grandmother where we stayed until she died when I was 11 years old.

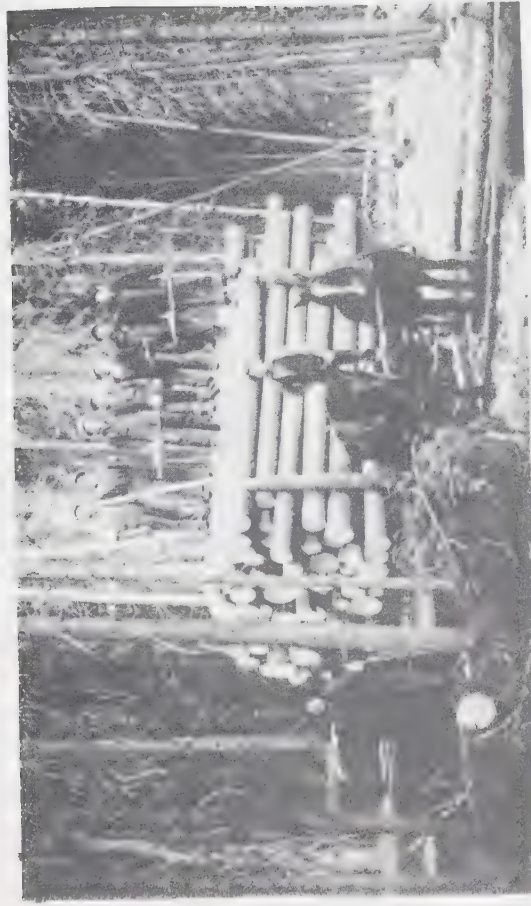
Mr. Ed Young, being a friend of my father's persuaded my Dad to come out to Buck Lake to take up a homestead. Since my grandmother, with whom my brother and I lived, had recently passed away; Dad came out to Drumheller to get my brother, Kenneth and I by train to Winfield. Well do I remember my rough trip from Winfield out to Buck Lake in the spring of the year 1927. We stayed in a little house of Parkers on Ed Youngs homestead the first year. My older brother, Leon and sister Evelyn, were at Buck Lake already. Dad and Leon worked at the Sisson Wilson lumber mill which was a very short distance from where we lived. My sister Evelyn and I en-



Ray Wallis - Trucker and Crew loading logs at Anthony's Sawmill.



Driver - Harold McIntyre, leaning against track is Tiny Gilchrist, Engineer.



Cat Train, Big Bill Fraser leaning on steering sleigh. Driver - Harold McIntyre.



Round House - Unidentified, Joe Brown - Blacksmith, Carl Jensen - Round House Boss.

deavored to keep house and go to school which was located about a quarter mile from the Parker residence. Lloyd and Jack Parker were both grown up, but Mary, Clare, Lee, Norman and Berta were still in school. Our teacher was a Miss Brown, who later married Jack Parker. Kathleen Siegel was another one who was going to school at that time. She later became Mrs. Pete Kiss.

Times were pretty hard in the early days but my father was an excellent marksman and when he went hunting, he usually came back with his game. The fall of 1927, he went hunting with Ed Young. They stayed together for the first day and then on the second day, Dad said to Ed, "Let's split up. You go one way and I'll go the other". Dad didn't like hunting with others. In about an hour, Ed heard the gun and went over to see what Dad got. It was a beautiful elk. Dad said to Ed, "Come on a little further," and Dad showed him another elk. So we had our meat for the winter. On another occasion, coming home from a dance in the ear-

Maccabee Lodge Organized June 1938

The first organization meeting of the Winfield Maccabee Lodge was held in the Winfield Theatre on June 28, 1938. The following members were present at the historic meeting:

Archie Alwood, Kittie Alwood, W. J. DeCoursey, Alfred Engler, Minnie Engler, Roy Gibbons, Velma Gibbons, Leslie McCagherty, Louis Starrie, Mildred Starrie, William Carter, and Helen Carter.

Provincial Commander J. S. Green conducted the organization meeting, and John P. Harmacy was elected Record Keeper of the Lodge.

munity and district. They have assisted many community and educational efforts. They have assisted the community skating rinks, town parades and sports days, and other events.

One of the largest and the best sports day picnics was held in Winfield in the early days of the lodge inception. Sponsored by the Maccabees, the sports day was a huge success.

Plan for the building and locating of a new curling rink in Winfield originated in the Maccabee Lodge.

Today the Maccabee Lodge is one of the oldest organizations in Winfield — strong in spirit, they continue to fill a need for a local fraternal movement.

Election and installation of the first officers of the Winfield Maccabee Lodge took place on July 10, 1938. Installation of the officers and exemplification of the lodge work, was conducted by members from two Edmonton Lodges.

The following were the first officers of the Winfield Lodge:

Commander, Sir Knight Archie Alwood; Lieutenant-Commander, Lady Helen Carter; Chaplain, Sir Knight, William Carter; Past Commander, Sir Knight Roy Gibbons; Judas Maccabeus, Sir Knight Engler; Captain of the

Guards, Sir Knight Louis Starrie; Deborah, Lady Mildred Starrie; Sergeant, Sir Knight Leslie McCagherty; Mistress-at-arms, Lady Joy Alwood; First Guard, Lady Engler; Second Guard, Sir Knight Jack Handbury; Picket, Sir Knight Young; Sentinel, Lady Kittie Alwood.

The Winfield Maccabee Lodge has been very progressive. The membership has grown very steadily.

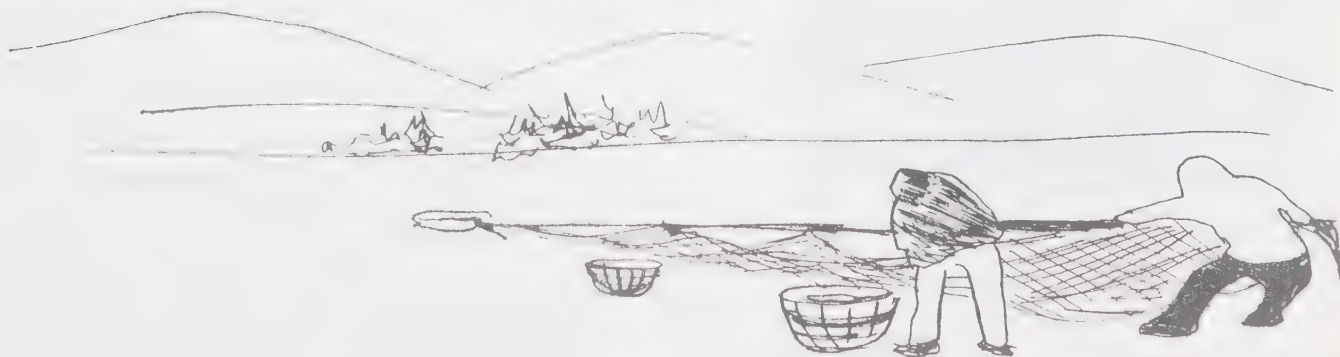
The Winfield Maccabee Lodge bought the old U.F.A. Hall from the School Division in 1940. It was later fixed up for a classroom, and used by the Division for many years. A piano was later bought for the hall, then a motion picture machine. The Lodge also acquired some carnival equipment which was built up through the years.

The Maccabees staged an annual carnival in Rimbey and nearby communities for a number of years. Top shows have been shown in Winfield by the Maccabees in their hall. The Lodge sponsored the visit of a TB X-ray Clinic to Winfield (the only such clinic ever to come to Winfield) and bore all the expense connected with the clinics' visit. Well over one thousand persons were X-rayed.

The Maccabee Lodge in Winfield has conducted many worthwhile endeavors on behalf of the com-



JOHN P. HARMACY



ly morning, Dad spied a deer which just stood looking at us from the bush. Dad sent Leon to the neighbors for the rifle and on return he shot the deer which made good eating.

My sister Evelyn and I became good pals of the Hensley girls, Pearl and Gladys. The Hensley's lived one mile west and one mile south of Buck Lake. We spent many happy times together. Mr. and Mrs. Dick Bowan were also neighbors whom we learned to appreciate as time went on.

Others that I knew in the Buck Lake area were the Larson's, Einer, Greta and Swaya were about our ages so naturally we knew them best.

Mr. and Mrs. Tipping ran the store and post office at Minnehik, coming here a few years earlier from the Wolf River Ranch where they had settled as the first white people in that country. Mary lived at home, helping in the store and keeping house for her folks. Dalton Tipping, her brother and well known Dominion Forest Fire Ranger and sterling sportsman, was also at home. As a young girl I admired Dalton. He was my ideal as far as a man was concerned. He was a student of nature and travelled hundreds of miles by horse with his camera, preferring to shoot the game with his camera rather than with a rifle. However, he did have many trophies, both of animals and birds which he mounted himself, being a qualified taxidermist. Dalton also wrote many interesting stories of his experiences in the forests he worked so hard to save. Dalton died on January 14 at Minnihik, following an attack of pneumonia a few days after he had thrown off the 'flu'. He was one of the first to be buried in the Maywood Cemetery.

The main entertainment was dances. We would travel for miles to go to a dance where Dad played the violin. This is how Dad became acquainted with Mary Tipping, who later became his wife. She played the mandolin and Dalton played the banjo. The Tippings were a musical family. It became quite a regular thing for Dad and Mary to meet at these dances. In time, they became very interested in each other but there was one drawback; Mary's folks were opposed either to Dad or the thought of Mary leaving them as she had always been at home even though she was 39 years old. Dad was 42 and I guess he thought they were old enough to know their own mind so decided he was going to have Mary at any cost. So rather than cause a big commotion, Mary packed her suitcase and set it out the window, having arranged ahead of time with Allan Damant (the mail carrier) to pick up her suitcase and put it in the cutter, then he also picked up Mary. After Mary had said good night to her folks, and drove to a farewell party which was arranged for them, they drove to Wetaskiwin and got married. Little did Mr. and Mrs. Tipping realize they wouldn't see their Mary for a few years. They headed north of Edmonton to settle at Enilda, Alberta. Needless to say, the Tippings were pretty upset about the whole thing but there wasn't much they could do about it. However, after time to cool off, Mr. and Mrs. Tipping relented and decided to bury the hatchet, so they wrote asking Dad and Mary to come back to Buck Lake and help in the Minnehik store and Post Office, which they did for a few years before Mr. Tipping died March 6, 1936, being seventy-six years old.

In the meantime, the MacCallum family had grown up, and Leon had gone to Montana, where he still resides. Evelyn went to Spokane where she married Raymond Spiger. I lived on a farm between Drumheller and Three Hills for several years, later marrying Kenneth James of Summerland, B. C. We had three children; Charles, David, and Marilyn. At the age of 33, my husband contacted polio here at Buck Lake and was taken to a better land within a week. It was a terrible shock to us all and very rough going with three children to provide for. However, God has supplied our needs. Kenneth, my youngest brother, took over Dad's homestead up at Enilda, ^{MAN}Alberta,

later going into the Air Force where he met a girl down east and was married. They settled at Agassiz, B. C. on a farm for several years and then moved to Chilawack, where they now have a motel.

Dad passed away very suddenly on March 29, 1963 at his home at Buck Lake where he had been a resident since the early 1920's.

Mother sold the property at Buck Lake before she died in 1965. She had been a resident in the Senior Citizen's home in Lacombe until she was taken to Red Deer nursing home, later passing away in the hospital at Red Deer.

In spite of the hardships of being left a widow with three children to provide for, God spoke to my heart and has changed my life and the things I once did I now hate. I have become a new creature in Christ.

Mrs. Lillian Sharp (nee MacCallum)



Mr. MacCallum, Evelyn, Kenneth, Lillian, Mrs. MacCallum.

I have married again after living in Summerland, B. C. for 12 years to a farmer in the Bashaw area, and am now Mrs. George Sharp.

ST. GEORGE'S WINFIELD -----THE REV. GEORGE MACKEY

"Not unto us, O Lord, Not unto us, but unto Thy Name give the praise: for Thy loving mercy and for Thy truth's sake," - Psalms 115: 1

Another milestone in the history of the Western missions was reached on Sunday morning, November 19, 1939, when Holy Communion was celebrated in the newly erected church at Winfield.

The beautiful little church was filled to capacity. The priest in charge (Rev. George Mackey) in the course of an address delivered in lieu of a sermon, lightly sketched the history of his two years in the mission. Previous to the building of the church, the first to be erected in this large district, he had held services in public halls, school rooms and in the sitting rooms of private houses. This will, of course, still be necessary in other parts of the mission. He mentioned some of the amusing incidents which had occurred at different times, such as the invasion of a room in the middle of a service by a viciferous pig and the embarrassment of a lady when she sat down on a cat in her chair at the conclusion of a hymn. Mr. Mackey also expressed gratitude on behalf of himself and the congregation towards Mr. J.C. Mahaffey, who was in charge of the work of the building. Mr. Mahaffey put into his work much more than his skill as a workman. The altar rail, which he himself designed and made, is one example among many of his evident desire to make the church in every detail as beautiful as the available material would permit. He was assisted in the work by many volunteer workers from Winfield and vicinity.

This mission, which has so far been called the Breton Mission came into being December 1937 when Mr. Mackey was sent to Breton by the Bishop. Shortly after this, Winfield saw him arrive from over the hills on skis, to make his first visit and to arrange for the holding of services. The first service was held on Sunday, 16th, January, 1938. For this service and for many others afterwards, the congregation was indebted to Mrs. R.W. Husband for the use of her sitting room. We often thought so much in those days, of the early Christians, meeting together in their homes, humbly worshipping. Later on, to accomodate the growing congregation, services were held in the public hall. During the rest of that winter, Mr. Mackey traversed the country on skis, holding services, getting in touch with his scattered flock and baptizing many infants and adults. The skis have since been replaced by a Model T Ford (1926) and later on by a more modern car. In spite of this more rapid means of locomotion, it is very difficult to put into effect a regular schedule of services at all the different points as there are many periods in the year when it is quite impossible to travel over even the main roads.

It was March, 1939, that the members of the Winfield congregation met at the home of Mrs. Rose Johnson to discuss the possibility of building a church. The W.A. offered to find a way to raise the funds necessary for the purchase of a site. The difficulties that were encountered in obtaining a suitable site (which cannot be detailed here) seemed at times to be insurmountable but this matter was finally settled. On a beautiful Sunday morning in July, Mr. Mackey officiated at the ceremony of turning the first sod on the site. No one who was there that morning, standing on the hilltop amongst the tall grass and flowers, can forget the impressiveness of that service.

The Winfield church has a beautiful location on a hill-top about two hundred yards outside the village, commanding a wide view of the surrounding country with its hills, valley and ever-green grees. It is a landmark which can be clearly seen from afar and from three points of the compass.

In our feeling of thankfulness for this, the first church to be built in this mission, we must not overlook those who seldom, if ever, have the privilege of attending one of its services. It is very difficult for people in cities and towns to realize that there are in this widespread mission, many devout Anglicans who had seen neither church or priest for many years. Probably only the missionary himself can fully realize the joy with which he has been received by these isolated people.

SAM MACIBORSKY

In May 1931, Mr. and Mrs. Sam Maciborsky and family of twelve children moved from Falun, Alta. to Alder Flats, five more children were born to them there.

They came as far as Buck Lake by horse and wagon, taking two or three days to make the journey. When they arrived at Buck Lake, they camped there over night and the next day walked to Alder Flats through the bush (about ten miles) as there was no road.

When arriving at Alder Flats, they settled on the homestead which is now Jim Maciborsky's farm. The family moved into a small shack that was built by Mr. Maciborsky and oldest son, Mike, prior to moving out here.

There were no stores, post office, or school at this time so the necessary supplies had to be purchased at Buck Lake. About two years later a school was built so the children could go to school. At this time there only was about five families settled in this area.

The main livelihood was raising gardens and crops on land that had been cleared by hand about two years prior to moving out here. This was done by Mr. Maciborsky and oldest son, Mike. They also raised pigs, chickens and cows for food and the wild fruit was quite plentiful. There was also all kinds of wild game roaming the country, so they hunted moose, deer, etc., for meat.

Employment out here was nil for quite some years, later when lumbering became popular, many worked in the sawmills.

Prior to the lumbering, Mr. Maciborsky and sons, Mike and Bill, worked with horses, building the road which we now travel on to Buck Lake and Buck Creek.

As time went on, living became much easier and jobs more plentiful and then in 1954 the oil boom hit this area and things really progressed rapidly and have been improving each year up until the present time.

CHRIS MAIERS

Chris Maiers lived at Canmore but homesteaded S.E. 12 - 46 - 5 - 5 at Pendryl. They were employed at the Chateau Lake Louise during summer months returning to the homestead for the winter. Chris had formerly been employed at the Regina Hotel in Sask. and at the Empress in Victoria.

Effie was an early member of the Nurses Auxilliary club and was Sec. for the school board in Pendryl district when schools were local. They moved to Prince George in 1953. Effie is employed there. Chris Jr. and family also live there. Chris Senior passed away in 1967.

THE MARSDEN FAMILY OF BATTLE LAKE

The Marsden family lived at Didsbury where my father, Thomas Marsden, was a building contractor from 1904 to 1907. Through a chance meeting in Didsbury with an American sign painter, Bert Slaughter, who had a homestead on the same section as the Hunters, my father was persuaded to homestead at Battle Lake. He homesteaded the N.W. 36 - 45 - 2 - W5. The Hunters, Marsdens and Bert Slaughters were all on the same section. The fourth quarter was a timber berth and was not open for filing on for a homestead. The Marsden family trekked from Didsbury to Wetaskiwin in the winter of 1908. The winter of 1907 and 1908 was an open one and a good thing for us that it was. In January of 1908 there was not any snow so we went from Didsbury to Wetaskiwin, and then out to Battle Lake in a lumber wagon. It was a good winter to do the necessary building we needed to get settled. The previous winters of 1906 and 1907 had been cold ones, with five and six feet of snow.

On the wagon trip, there was just my father, mother, my sister Mary E. aged seven and myself, Tom, aged eleven. My older brother aged fifteen, had stayed in Didsbury, as he was working in the General Store there. He came to us one and a half years later, and took a homestead at the age of seventeen, which my father could hold for him until he was eighteen years old. His homestead was just six miles East of Battle Lake, two miles south of West-rose Store. It was on the corner of a township, N.E. 36 - 45 - 1 - W5. My sister Mary E. Gist has the place now and makes her home there.

In 1908 Bert Slaughter married my aunt, and so became related to us by marriage, after persuading us to come to Battle Lake.

A number of settlers came in after us. Mrs. Hunter's brother, Henry Spiers had homesteaded there before us but he did not stay, also a couple of Americans. One was a kindly middled aged man by the name of Gus Huffman. The other was Tom Wagner, a Minnesota lumberjack, and a real one. I learned a few things about cutting and sawing timber from him.

A few of the early settlers from Battle Lake Post Office west along the main road, one half a mile from the Post Office the Eastmans made their home. They came from Unatilla Oregon. About three miles farther down lived the Bunney family. Their home was along the lake shore with their garden against the hillside which often let them raise many early vegetables and many huge pumpkins in the fall. Yeoford was past the Bunney farm some eight miles from the Battle Lake Post Office. They were all good people.

Mark Wenham, an Englishman, was one of the first settlers at Yeoford. Mr. Wenham lived on the N.W. 2 - 47 - 3 - W5. He had the land office at which everyone filed on their homesteads, so many travelled a great distance to file on their land. On the Wenham farm,

two of their sons are buried, they died with diphtheria. By their graves a huge spruce tree had grown and every year a pair of huge hawks would nest in the spruce. A few years ago a fire went over this land and burnt the spruce tree so it will be harder to find the boys resting place. Wenhams left the Valley about 1926 and went to Winnipeg. Wenham Valley was named after this old pioneer.

Further on from Yeoford, Sanford Nelson lived. He was a real good guy and owned and operated a sawmill. I, Tommy Marsden, worked for him for about a year or more. I was about twenty-one years of age. Another lad and I cut timber all winter and the following summer I worked in the mill. Mrs. Sanford Nelson was a registered nurse from Battle Creek, Sanitarium in Michigan.

One of our good friends was Harry Stelfox. He was a game guardian and Justice of the Peace. Harry and his brother Jack homesteaded about three miles west of us. Near them were six or eight more settlers who came from Seattle, Washington. The Henry Miller's were with them. They mostly all went back to the west coast in two or three years.

My pal, Roy Hunter, and I, Tom, did a lot of hunting and fishing from the time we were twelve and thirteen years old. In bird hunting we got mostly partridge, and there were plenty of them in those days. We could get over a hundred birds each. You were allowed one hundred for the season from October the first to the thirty-first. We also got Prairie Chickens and ducks. We caught lots of fish in Battle Lake, Pike, Pickerel, and Jack fish. One morning in June from four-thirty to nine-thirty A.M. we caught fifty-four. There was no limit as to what you caught in those days.

Previous to 1912 the Battle Lake Post Office was kept by Mr. and Mrs. Heacock. They had a store as well. It was the only store in that area up to that time. In 1912, the Hunters moved off their homestead and took over the Post Office from the Heacocks.

In 1913 we, the Marsdens, moved to Westeros to my brothers place. My father built a two storey house there. The land was easier to clear at Westeros as it did not have the timber like there was at Battle Lake.

The Battle Lake church was finished being built in 1912 on what is now known as the Fullerton place. Mr. Papineau had a sawmill on this land in the early days. The Thomases were also one of the early pioneers. They operated a sawmill somewhere around where Mr. and Mrs. Sid Cotterill lived, near where Jack Phippen is now living. Mr. Thomas passed away and is buried on the south side of the old Hunter place. The one girl's name was Dorothy, who was a writer of books.

MR. AND MRS. ALEXANDER MATTROSOFF

They left Russia during the Revolution of 1917 and went to China and then came to Canada in 1924. After working in Calgary, they bought the S.E. $\frac{1}{4}$ 15 - 46 - 1 - 5 in 1926 where they resided until 1929, when they moved to the homestead N.W. $\frac{1}{4}$ 28 - 46 - 2 - 5 in the Yeoford district. Their son, an only child, passed away in 1958. Mrs. Mattrosoff passed away in 1952. Mr. Mattrosoff passed away at the age of 90 years in August 1965.



Mr. and Mrs. Alexander Mattrosoff.

Alexander Mattrosoff was pay master in the Russian Army and his wife was children's nurse to some of the children of Russian aristocracy. They came out through China during or after the Russian Revolution. They had one son but he never came to the Yeoford area. They came to Yeoford area from Calgary on the \$600.00 relief bit. Mrs. Mattrosoff did some housework for other people. She died in Camrose at the Nursing home there and she is buried at Lindsdale. They were of the Greek Catholic religion.

CHARLIE MARQUARDT

Charlie was a very slim agile person. He got enjoyment from playing his violin. He often entertained people by dancing the "broom dance", a form of step-dancing. He homesteaded N.E. 12 - 46 - 4 - 5. He once worked in a florist shop in Calgary prior to coming here and again in Banff Springs Hotel. He died in 1950.

JOE MAYER SR.

Joe Sr. and Freida Mayer came to Wenham Valley area in 1911 to their homestead on N. E. 32 - 46 - 3 - W5. They had a family of five. Joe Jr, Freida (Mrs. Don Collins), Bill, Rudy married Doreen Wager, Fred. Mr. Joe Mayer Sr. passed away in 1945. Three boys Joe, Bill and Rudy still live in the area.

MRS. E.F. McKAY

I, Mrs. Cuthbertson, arrived at (Buck Lake) Minnehik, March 9, 1930. I had farm N.W. 46 - 6 - W5. This was the Wilson homestead. I came here from Tomahawk, Alberta. The reason we came here was because we had six children and we could find work here. We lived a short while at the Bill Simson farm where he worked in Wetaskiwin. We worked here and liked Buck so well that we settled here 41 years ago. Mr. Bill Turppen, and his brother Frank, their cousin Leonard Breshoir and Seth Wells brought us here with two cars. They farmed near Wetaskiwin. They still do.

Our first real home was a log house. Our postmaster was Mr. Tipping. When we came we were near the lake shore of what is now known as Buck Lake Hamlet. The first school was a wood shed on Charlie Parker's farm. The first teachers remembered were Miss Bell, Summer; Miss Elsie Brown now Mrs. Jack Parker. The next school was on Coleman Kiss' farm and the first teachers were Mrs. Bill Doyle, and Mr. Macdonald. The store was run by Mr. Tipping. Mail carried by team with drivers Mr. Bill Ives and Harry Ives.

After I settled here at Buck Lake, my home was a stopping place for traveller bachelors. Roy McKay kept anyone who came by and needed a place to stay, sick people, Indians, etc. Roy McKay and I were married in 1932.

My first neighbor was Mr. and Mrs. Dan Gordon. She still lives at Lacombe, Alberta.

We had dug a well for stock in winter, drove cattle to the lake and for our wash water, we used the well water. It was very hard.

Our worst problem was my youngest son having polio.

House parties were wonderful. Card parties and real old time dances were enjoyed by young and old. However, there were also bad bush fires.

Yes, life then was wonderful, neighbors all were friendly, sharing our flour, sugar, coffee. Everyone seemed happy even though we worked hard for a living. Wages were small but we were never hungry. I cut bush for 10 dollars an acre to feed my family. I plowed land and even stacked hay for Mr. Bill Siegel. Anything for a dollar. I dug spuds and vegetables for a share, but everyone was happy. I would like to say that Mr. Ernest Drader helped everyone a lot, giving work at his sawmill also. Mr. Coleman Kiss helped many of us too and gave lots of young boys a chance to make a living. My family of seven children are all happily married. Roy passed away in 1960.

Mrs. E.F. McKay

MR. AND MRS. EDMOND McKAY

Edmond and Marian McKay arrived in Buck Lake district Nov. 6, 1919 with 5 children, all girls; Virginia, Colloda, Sarah, Viola and Vivian - one month old the day before arriving here.

We lived a short time in Eugene Nystrom's house, it belongs to Duffy now, in April we moved to Albin Nystrom's place joining this one on the east. It belongs to Henry Brown now. It had a well and other buildings.

We came from the famous Cypress Hills where old Fort Walsh had been built, during the late 1870-1885. My father, Henry Marshall had been a freighter in building this fort and hauling supplies to it as long as it operated as a police force.

We were having dry weather in the south of the province, and a game and timber reserve had been formed in Cypress Hills where our land joined it, so there was no grazing of stock any longer, so we looked else-where and decided we'd go north, so started out in July. I stayed with the children at my mother's, Mrs. Lorana Marshall, until my husband got a place for the winter, then we were going on to the Peace River Block.

My husband met a cousin, Henry Kirkness, in Medicine Hat. He was just back from overseas, he said he too was going north so they all started. They drove to Brooks, but by then the cattle were footsore. He decided he'd ship a carload and Kirkness drove on to Ponoka. From there, they travelled to Buck Lake, were going on again in the spring, but never did. The grass was so plentiful, turned the horses out to rustle, but by Christmas they decided they'd not make it, so sold one team and bought hay for the other three. We had left the cattle at Bluffcentre to winter, at strawstacks with grain, but only one cow and calf made the winter. Quite a change for stock from prairie wool to northern grass. But one learns. The

snow was 2 feet deep or more by the time I got out here. Kirkness and his daughter Lillian had come on, while my husband went back to meet me in Ponoka. I came by train.

Our Post Office was Pendryl, Sam Weaver was postmaster. There was a store at Minnehik P.O. run by Mr. and Mrs. Sabin. Our neighbors were not close but all were very friendly; there were Bill Siegle and family, Mr. and Mrs. Pete Bjur and family, Alfred, Agnes, Lena, Fred and Ebba; Mr. and Mrs. Ellsworth and 2 children - boy and girl, quite a few families all together. So a school district was formed and everyone helped cut and saw logs and build the Maywood school, it opened for classes 1st of April, 1921 with about 20 scholars; Miss Mast was the teacher.

Farming conditions were very poor, the land had been badly burned years before, so crops barely grew. Sugar was \$30.00 per 100 lbs., flour \$8.00 per 100 are the only things I recall the prices of, one thing soap was very scarce or not plentiful, our store managed to keep a bar for me each week. I had a baby and four bigger ones to wash for so had to be careful. I learned to make soap, so that helped.

There was lots of water, wells were shallow, some artesian. There were no graded roads, so travel in the mud was just something you can't imagine unless you once tried going somewhere.

Dancing, and the yearly picnic was our entertainment. Bush fires seemed to burn all summer, one learns to live with the smoke and wonder how far away the fires are.

Our neighbor, Mr. Ellsworth was killed by his very gentle bull one morning as he finished milking. A neighbor, Mr. Pete Bjur made the coffin and finished it very nicely.

Mr. and Mrs. Walter Sissons had moved in with her father, Mr. Wilson, their two boys slept in the hay loft, the house being very small. One night, the barn burned while the boys slept, their bodies were found in the bed after. The parents think a smudge had caught the barn on fire since they took a pail for a smudge, the mosquitos being very bad in those days.

Our children are all married; Virginia lives in Kaslo, B.C. she has 3 children, Colloda lives in Victoria, B.C. she has one boy, Sarah lives in Edmonton, Alberta - 5 children, Viola lives in Nelson, B.C. - 5 children, Irma lives in Calgary - 4 children, Ben lives in Whitehorse, Y.T. - 4 children, Roy lives in Whitehorse, Y.T. 12 children, Joyce, deceased in 1967, had 5 children, Coy, farms at Stettler, Alberta - 4 children, Gordon farms at Ft. St. John, B.C. - 4 children, Marie lives 10 miles south east of Clive, Alberta.

Marian McKay

MR. AND MRS. H. McNAUGHTON

Harry McNaughton, born in Kentucky in 1877, and Augusta Muehle, born in Holstein, Germany in 1876, were married in Washington in 1906 and homesteaded in the Champion district of southern Alberta in 1907. They farmed there until 1946 when they moved to Winfield where they bought land from Archie Alwood. They had six children - Augusta - Mrs. Walter Woehrle of Newman Lake, Washington; Edna - Mrs. Harvey Vann of Danville, California; Joseph of Winfield; Geraldine - Mrs. Ken Head of Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. Mom and Dad both passed away in late 1970.

I married Leta Robson in 1941. Leta, daughter of Violet Carruthers and C.R. Robson, was born and raised in Vulcan where her parents operated the theatre and Marble Coffee Shop. We had four children, Lyle, Carrie, and Noel being born in Vulcan, and Matthew in Wetaskiwin. We bought the land known as the King place in 1943 but could not move until after the war, when, together with brother Joe and his family, we made the trip to start farming, with milk production in mind.

There was very little in the line of improvement on the land. The old log house built at least 30 years earlier had no door or windows; there was little space for storing household effects. At the time we moved in, in May, there was a late snow and wet weather. The road past the farm was a continuous mudhole and the trail from the road to the buildings was no better. On one occasion, a lumber truck had one hind wheel in a hole so deep that the front wheel on the opposite corner was off the ground.

We experienced a few hardships (which may have become magnified by the passing years) but our hopes and ambitions were high and we were convinced that we couldn't go anywhere but up.

We enjoyed the country including fishing at Buck Lake, berrypicking and picnicing - that is when weather and muddy roads permitted.

We shipped our livestock up later in the year and in the fall started selling bottled milk in Winfield. That same fall we had to buy more cows for milk supply and that was the year when feed was very scarce and high priced. We went in the hole and if it hadn't been for Mrs. Sabin, who extended credit, we would have been quite hungry at times. We managed to hang

on and from then on things picked up. We got a new barn built and gradually got things better organized.

In the early fifties, oil activity out west caused a business boom. We were playing in an orchestra among other things and when the Buck Lake Hall went up for sale, we decided to buy it and disposed of our dairy herd.

We operated the hall for several years and moved to Pendryl Store which we rented from Gus Bjur. We found we like the district and the people here and bought the business. We needed a new building for the store and for living quarters, and since we could move the hall and remodel for much less than to build a new structure, we did that.

I worked in the oil field as pumper for six years and in 1964 made the decision that a feed mill was needed, and built one. We have seen great development and improvement in the time we have been here, a good example being schooling. In 1946 Winfield had a one room school west of the trestle. Its school is now many roomed and modern. Roads too have progressed from muddy and impassable for cars much of the time to mostly all weather roads, with pavement in sight. In Reflection we Remember:

The dug well was our cooler in summer, with jars suspended by binder twine hung on nails. In time the twine would break and we'd hand pump the water out and retrieve our food.

Mr. and Mrs. Alwood gave our children a pair of young goats to play with.

I built a tree house which gave hours of pleasure to the youngsters.

In the winter Leta walked to town to give music lessons to Ruth and Elaine Brown, and to a little tow headed lad named Ray Greff. Who would then have dreamed of his continent wide fame?

We had a scare awaiting us from an airtight heater. While four children (small) were awaiting their Grandpa to babysit them on a perfectly quiet morning, the stove had wet mittens resting on newspaper on top of it. Puff-Puff- it ignited the paper, endangering all the mittens. Lyle, the eldest, grabbed a pan of water and put it out.

Father Gibbons brought Bishop Barfoot to our log home for dinner in 1953, during the Bishop's trip en route from visiting P. M. Nehru in India to the coronation of Queen Elizabeth. His Grace extended a delicious twinkle as he reached for a little used reference book and had to whiff some dust off it.

We once had to wait in Sabins Store four hours to complete a long distance call at the time of the first oil drilling activity. The one phone served the whole area, even west to Alder Flats.

Most of the furnishings in the small Anglican church are hand made and thus doubly blessed.

Our children are all grown up and making homes of their own. Lyle married Omayal Karmy and they have a daughter, Leila Kass. Both of them are teachers.

Carrie is Mrs. Robert C. Hokanson. She is a teacher too and Rob is an Ag. graduate, with plans for more university.

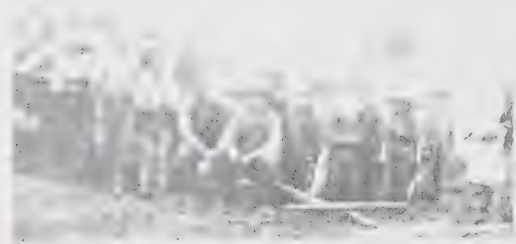
Noel married Daisy Felix of Alingly, Saskatchewan. He is also an Ag. graduate, Daisy is an R.N. They have a son, Jay, and daughter, Leta. The three families live in Edmonton.

Matt is a graduate of S.A.I.T. and is in the petroleum production field. He married Fern Bollman of Webb, Saskatchewan. She is completing her training in Education.

JOE McNAUGHTON

May 4, 1946. A big day. We got to Winfield about 1 p.m. The trip from Champion took nearly two days in a 1928 International truck. I think it was about the roughest riding, gutless and hard to steer truck ever built. We made it all the way to Red Deer the first day. From Red Deer to Winfield took us only 6 hours.

Michael was two years old when we came here. I was older. Beulah and I were married August, 26, 1942. Four days later I was in worse trouble. The army got me. From 1939 until then Jim and I had a tow mill in the Eastern Irrigation District at Rolling Hills. Rolling Hills must have been named by a joker as the hamlet itself and surrounding district is about the flattest area in Alberta. It also had wind, dust, and rattle snakes.



Jack McLeod and family with friends, moving from Timu to Buck Lake in 1939.

We spent the first summer here on the Alex Smiley estate south of Winfield. Not much can be said for the old log house we lived in. We had alot of rain that summer and with every shower the roof leaked in a different place, usually on our bed. Transportation was a lot of fun too. The roads in and out were bush trails and no matter how we tried to miss the mud holes, one nearly always got the half ton Wyllis truck bogged down so we'd have to go for the tractor. We finally used the tractor exclusively for travel in and out. The tractor, a Model 25 was the first full sized tractor in the area. It made a lot of noise and I bogged it down several times.

The main road was a beaut too. We were able, with full effort to bring a load a day from the railroad car which brought most of our machinery. We had loaded the tractor first so it was awhile before we had it to use to pull the truck through the bad spots. I stopped one day to help a truck out of a frost boil. The driver stepped out to help me tie on and broke through what looked like solid ground and he went in to his knees in ooze.

The country was a very welcome change from prairie wind and dust and I was happy to be out of the army.

Dave Graham and Tony Callio lived on the Blackmore place or the Gibbons homestead as the old timers know it. Dave and Tony drilled wells and each time they completed one, there was a party.

Percy Russel lived south of us. Mrs. Eva Russel lived across the road to the east. Roland Russel and family also lived there for awhile. Mrs. Eva Russel came to our rescue when we were moving to the Smiley place. Her kindness in looking after Michael and giving us dinner until we got household set up will always be remembered. She was rich in old fashioned goodness.

Jim and I bought the Blackmore place in November 1946. Beulah and I moved there and patched up and papered the house. It seemed like a mansion. We added on to the old barn to accomodate the twenty or so holstein cows and heifers we brought up from Champion. Nobody told us that the snow could get so deep. We didn't have time to worry though. Milking and feeding cows and cutting wood was a full time job. I admit I wasn't one of those guys who always had a big woodpile. I remember once I had a pile I couldn't see over. Beulah could hardly sleep. She worked night and day to get that pile used up so I'd have to cut more.

Dad sold the farm at Champion and he and Mom moved to Winfield in October 1946. Dad built a small house in our yard. The next year he bought Archie Alwoods place and moved there. He was 71 when he came here and he had enough ambition for several people. He bought a team and built a house on a wagon and sold Rawleigh products. He did well at it and I think he got to know more people from Warburg to Hoadley, from Pigeon Lake to Alder Flats than any politician. Dad farmed a little, sawed a little lumber and kept bees until 1962 when age caught up with his memory and he was unable to operate alone. I think he enjoyed his years at Winfield as much as anyone ever could have.

We got Alan July 17, 1947 in the usual way and the same year we got the S. E. $\frac{1}{4}$ 11 as a homestead lease. Jim and I took over the milk delivery in the fall of 1947. That was one way to keep some money coming in. I worked pretty good excepting Christmas and New Years. The team Queen and Bess always got me home on those days. They knew the way. I didn't. I'm a friendly guy and always felt it my duty to accept a friendly drink. Beulah wasn't always overjoyed at my condition.

Duane came on August 4, 1949 and Karen on September 4, 1951.

The dairy partnership dissolved in 1952. I had enough of cows so sold out to Jim. I raised pigs, chickens and sheep. The coyotes saw to it that there wasn't too much profit in sheep. I worked a winter at Carrol Bros. mill as millwright in 1952-53 then spent two winters with Aron Brown on the freight run from Winfield west to Alder Flats.

I forgot my past dislike for cows and bought the herd back in 1955 and went back at milk delivery in Winfield. I also took on Breton. The Holiday problem was solved as we didn't deliver on those days. I couldn't keep up with the work on the farm with the milk run so in Nov. 1959 Fred Erb took over and I went to work in the oilfield at Breton. I've been at it every since except for a few months in 1961 when I took census.

I like Winfield. I wouldn't want to live anywhere else. I'm not much of a farmer but we have lots of memories of good friends and good times. I freely confess I make the best wine that ever went into a bottle.

The kids aren't home much anymore but I'm happy to say that they like to come home and they get nostalgic for the farm. I think they've had as much fun as kids here as children have had growing up anyplace. Yes I'd do it again. Maybe I'd do things differently next time but I doubt it.

C.J. (Joe) McNaughton

CHARLIE MICKEY

Chas. M. Mickey arrived in 1933 from Lacombe, worked around district and at Pete Bjur's. He married Helen Dool, Dec. 1935 and moved to N.E. 20 - 46 - 5 - 5. A son, Donald, was born Jan. 26, 1937 and a daughter, Doreen, May 20, 1938.

Their idea in coming west was that times being so hard it was the only way to get good land cheap and be able to carve out a home.

During the depression years - so called the hungry thirties - they had come by team with sleigh then wagon and built their first house of logs. He recalls Gust Bjur as first Postmaster at Pendryl and Mrs. Mike Taylor as teacher at Maywood School. Early neighbors were Jack and Milo Sowles families, Elmer and Oscar Rice, Wm. Brown family, Rachel family, Eddie Jost, Berg family, Dunn, John Engblom, Glasel families.

Crops very poor due to far too much rain, short season and lack of drainage. Wells at the time mostly dug although some surface water used for stock. Charlie, with a broken leg, hauled water from Bergs with his milk cow used as a horse the winter of 1937.

Some prices he remembered were flour \$3.50 per 100 lbs., $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. of tobacco and papers - 25¢. He bought 5 head of female cattle for \$35.

Roads were very poor. Nearest doctor and hospital at Wetaskiwin. The communications were poor, telephone at Pendryl, Buck Lake and Alder Flats. Everyone in those days were dependant on our district nurse, Miss Conroy, Cream of the earth - mother to one and all.

Entertainment then was house parties, a few dances, card parties and the annual community picnic and visiting of neighbors.

There were prolonged cold spells and blizzards. Occasionally a neighbor would have a fire and be burned out. Neighbors turned out 100% to help those in need.

Gust Bjur hired Charlie and Jim Willows the spring of 1939 to haul a couple of tons of flour from Winfield to Pendryl. This was done with 4 up outfits on highwheeled wagons.

In those days time didn't seem so important. There was time for visiting your neighbor and enjoying nature and the world in general.

Charlie Mickey

STAN MILSON

Pendryl, Alberta, 1927 - A land of brush timber, muskeg, and hard work with mud, privation and - hope! A new land in the making, devoid of even the rudiments of the conveniences and machinery considered necessary in today's modern world. No tractors or bulldozers roared to clear bushland. The axe, brush-hook and cross-cut saw were the order of the day and every square foot of ground was won by human muscle and horse power propelled by four legs.

The district at that time was populated for the most part by bachelors. Their abodes consisted of everything from dug-outs in the bank of a gully to log or frame shacks of assorted sizes and shapes, all with a minimum of comforts or of conveniences. To them, the homes of the scattered married folk and the cottage of the District Nurse were as castles in a wilderness and were reminders of what they had known in other parts of Canada or in their homelands for they came from many far flung corners of the world. The majority of them were working to "prove up" a homestead, spending six winter months of each year in residence; clearing land and putting up buildings. The remaining six summer months they worked "outside" to earn enough to finance the breaking of the land and other improvements.

Money, which was a hard to come by commodity in those days became even more scarce after the Stock Market Crash of 1929 and became almost non-existent during the following "Hungry Thirties". The homesteaders for the most part never really had had much in the way of money and whilst the bad times after 1929 made things more difficult for them, they carried on as best they could and whilst in most cases the pickings were mighty slim, they asked nor expected pity or help from anyone. Those were the days of self-help when neighbor traded work with neighbor and money did not enter into the picture.

The homesteaders were not alone in the lack of cash in those days, however. Governments also were without the wherewithal to maintain a minimum of services. As a result, bridges collapsed and were left that way. Roads which were nightmares most of the time became even

Charlie Mickey and Mrs. Dool hauling water homestead style.

more so and schools became increasingly difficult to keep in operation. The advent of William Aberhart and his Social Credit Government injected a ray of optimism and hope for a brief period and with the issuing of his "Funny Money" some necessary work was accomplished. The road work pay envelopes stuffed with brand new Government of Alberta one dollar bills were as manna from heaven. No one really had much confidence in the stuff; government employees would not accept even a portion of their salaries in it and the most of it from the Pendryl district ended up in the safe of the Winfield General Store. The flurry of prosperity was short lived for the federal government stepped in and stopped the printing of what they termed "bogus currency".

But life went on, people made do with what they had, helped one another, created their own amusements besides utilizing anything that could be used to get by with, without too much complaint. Many were the flour and sugar sacks that were made into bed sheets, pillow slips and underwear and many were the pairs of kids shoes manufactured from old gum boots. And they took heart and felt comfort in the knowledge that the land and the roofs over their heads were their own and they pitied the men riding the freights into Winfield to walk the thirty miles west, with all their worldly belongings on their backs, to work long hours, six days a week for \$15.00 a month in the sawmills or logging camps.

Through it all, the country continued to open up. Some mechanization was beginning to make an appearance and some undaunted souls had managed to buck the everlasting mud with cars or trucks. Increasingly, however, the "Bennett Buggy" was soon on the roads as the money to buy gasoline became more and more difficult to come by. In it's favor can be said, that whilst slower than an automobile, the Bennett Buggy, the wagon, the buggy, cutter and sleighs got to where they were going. This could not always be said of mechanical devices on the so-called roads and many hours would often be spent in digging, sweating and cussing in mud holes or in snow banks before a trip was ended.

One must wonder how the present day workers (1971) in the ranks of organized labor with their continual demands for more and more wages for less and less work would have fared in those early days when the going wages (when any were available) for the back breaking toil of cutting brush, picking roots and rocks, stooking or pitching bundles on a threshing crew, was at the rate of one dollar for a day of indeterminate length. And how the present day school teachers with their high salaries, pension funds, fringe benefits and their schools with wall-to-wall carpeting, gymnasium, teaching aids, central heating and air conditioning would stack up against those dedicated people who taught all grades from one to eight in a one room school house where they also did the janitor work and were at the school house ahead of the children in sub zero temperatures to get the wood burning heater going. All for a salary of from \$450.00 to \$500.00 a year! And even that meagre amount the school boards had difficulty in providing.

And the children! How would the present generation with all the comforts and modern conveniences in the home and a bus to take them to and from a comfortable, well equipped school stack up against those kids of the homestead era? They knew no home conveniences whatsoever and tramped miles to and from school on foot through the rain and mud of spring and fall; the heat, dust and mosquitos of summer and the deep snow and bitter cold of winter. The children of those days were the foundation of a generation of good citizens who were self-reliant, asked and expected favors of none and were imbued with the knowledge that anything worth while must be worked for. When one considers the present day recipients of welfare payments amounting to hundreds of dollars each month for doing nothing and who are still complaining that they are hard done by; one thinks again of the school teachers who worked under the most primitive conditions for a pittance. And of the District Nurses on call at all hours of the day or night, seven days a week, who covered a district from Winfield to Alder Flats tending the sick in every kind of weather, travelling over deplorable roads and back by wagon, sleighs or horseback. One also thinks of a mother of five children taking a team and sleigh with a load of wheat to Wetsaskiwin and back, a journey of one hundred and forty miles in the depth of winter, to have the grain milled into flour and porridge, paying for the milling with a portion of the load. And of the farmers working from sun-up to sun-down every day of the year, growing crops and tending livestock to receive in return twenty-five cents for a bushel of wheat, \$15.00 for a two year old beef animal, two cents a pound for hogs, five cents a dozen for their eggs and fourteen cents a pound for butterfat!!

The toil and sweat and endurance of those early settlers laid the foundations for the Pendryl of broad acres and prosperous farms of today. The good roads, electricity, television, telephones and modern conveniences were to them the stuff that dreams are made

of. Those people had no visions, they were too busy keeping body and soul in one piece to indulge in fantasies. But those of them who are still around can look back and reflect that the hardships, privation and their hard work have been fully rewarded and it has all been worth their while. They are the people who created a community and helped to build a nation!

Stan Milson
Some Memories of Homestead Days

August 1927 - a conducted tour of available quarters by Dick DeLong.

Walking out to Yeoford to file. Walking back and clearing a site where my tent was to be. Then leaving to work on a threshing crew until fall.

October 1927 - returning with teat and gear. Hauled out from Winfield by Mr. Shamp who helped put up tent. Awakening next morning to find the ground covered with two feet of snow.

Walking back a half mile where I had seen a straw pile to ask for some sacks of straw to make a bed in the tent. The man bwned the straw was Ben Stady. How fortunate for me that my near neighbour should be a carpenter. He told me where I could buy lumber and he agreed to build my shack on a trade work basis.

Hired team and wagon from Bill Bodenham to haul lumber from Wilson and Sisson saw mill west of Buck Lake. Work crew at the mill had taken over the sales of lumber in an effort to get some of the wages owed to them. Bought lumber for \$13.00 per thousand. Ben and I built my first home, a 14 foot by 16 foot shack. Traded work with Ben, mostly cutting firewood. We would stand for hours, each on one end of a cross-cut saw. How delicious those wonderful meals of Mrs. Stady's tasted after my own bachelor fare!! Lived on beans, fish, hot cakes, potatoes and prairie chicken that first winter.

Building a fire and keeping it going day and night until the ground thawed enough to start on the digging of a well. Got water at fifteen feet after tough digging down through blue clay.

Wondering if homesteading was such a good idea when armed with an axe and one-man cross cut saw, surrounded by bush, started the job of clearing.

Going back to the shack in the evening after cutting brush all day in below zero temperatures. Getting the stove going to cook supper and thaw out clothes frozen with sweat.

Potatoes bought in Winfield were frozen solid when I got them home. Put them under the bed on a single board floor. They stayed frozen all winter. They would thaw out enough as needed in cold water.

Bill Ives pulling in late at night with a cook stove ordered from Eaton's. Bill hauled freight and mail two days a week between Alder Flats and Winfield. He was in a good mood that night, having with him a bottle of good cheer to keep himself warm. Cooked him a hot meal and he continued on his way to the Flats.

Harry Ives took over the mail route from Bill. Then Allan Dament took it over and started to haul with a truck instead of horses. Pretty tough hauling when the roads were bad. Often take half an hour for the half mile from Pendryl Store to our entrance.

First breaking being done by Fred Krogh. Fred did most of the breaking around there at that time. Eight horses and twenty-four inch breaking plough. Would pull stumps ahead of breaking with a four horse outfit. Charge - \$3.00 an acre for pulling stumps and \$8.00 an acre breaking.

Mrs. Krogh was the mother of five who hauled wheat to Wetaskiwin and flour and porridge grind back.

Young Jim Willows going by hauling lumber on sleighs with four horse outfit from out west to Winfield at so much per thousand feet.

The Glazel children walking past to school in all weathers.

Everybody turning out to pull a horse from a "shaker" on Dahl's place.

A bride coming to a two room shack. Furniture all home made with bedsteads made from poles cut in the bush, the springs made with binder twine and mattress of sacks filled with straw.

Hauling slabs from Drader's mill in Winfield. Trotting along behind sleighs to keep warm and seeing Lou Hendrigan out bare headed and bare chested, digging snow away from stumps to cut roots in preparation for pulling in the spring.

Old Mr. Goodkey cutting his grain crop with scythe and cradle.

Hauling coal, (for brooder stove), from Rimbey through Hoadley Hills and across Town Lake on the ice. Met Eric Engbloom on the way out for a load of chimney bricks.

The ice gave way as he was crossing the lake on his return trip. He was close to the lake edge and the water was not deep.

Our first grain crop being threshed by Drader's wood burning, steam threshing outfit with Herman Siegel in charge.

The school board meetings at Joe Betlamini's. His powerful dandelion wine which sent you singing through the snow, through the bush and across the fields to home. Joe was chairman of the board.

Mr. Stratton with his eyes all swollen and blood shot after he pulled a skunk out of his chicken coop by it's tail.

Bachelor population, Pendryl Vicinity - 1927 - Lou Hendrigan; Bill Steer; Charlie Marquet; Harry Dewar; Sandy and Bill Turnbull; Carl DeMars; Bill and Fred Bodenham; Owen O'Meara; John Olsen; Stan Milson; Sam McWaters; Ed Irwin; Pete Soder; Julius Dahl; Eric and Edwin Engblom; John Ille; Steve Maxwell; Bill Taylor; John Anderson; Dick DeLong; Geo. Radford and probably others I didn't know.

Married people at that time: Beck; Berg; John Engblom; Long; Betlamini; Stratton; Stady; Willows; Goodkey; Dewar; Shamp-Bjur; Glazel; Frasers; Krogh.

JAMES MICKU

Mr. and Mrs. James Micku and two small children came from Kippling, Sask. on June 1, 1932 - travelled by train with three box cars of machinery, cattle and household articles. We left our home in Saskatchewan due to drought and dust storms. When we came through Rimbey, the train track was covered with water, quite a change. Arriving at Winfield, there was a hotel, cafe, rooming house and stores.

Our possessions were unloaded onto the platform and put on the wagons, all in pouring rain, but we moved on to the homestead. That year, we made enough hay for the cattle but not for the horses so we took them to Falun to winter and walked back home. Brought them home in the spring only to have them run away many times afterwards. They always headed back to Falun but were stopped several times by Mr. and Mrs. Jack Goodkey.

The children started school at Buck Lake in 1936 and their first teacher was Miss Plumley.

MILLS IN THIS AREA

1909 - W. B. Fullerton - Fawcett Industries - east end of Battle Lake. Rickerts Mill between Knob Hill and Norbuck.

1925 or 26 - Elliason and Anderson Mill.

Antross siding on C.P.R. named for Anthony and Ross Mill.

Fraspur siding on C.F.R. (situated between Antross and Norbuck) was the site of Fraser Brothers Mill (Bill and Don Fraser).

Nelspur on C.P.R. - between Norbuck and Winfield - for Sanford Nelson Mill.

Art Burrows Mill was at Norbuck.

Carroll Brothers Mill was situated between Twin Lakes.

Vigens Mill was east of Twin Lakes. Vigen and Art Ellingson had Bear Creek Mill 11 on N $\frac{1}{2}$ 12-46-3-W5.

Carl Anderson Sawmill was on the west of Pigeon Lake - 1870.

McKelvie Blain Lumber Co. (Frank Papineau) Battle Lake.

Smaller mills in this east area between Battle Lake and Pigeon Lake: Rowley's Sawmill, Ferguson's Sawmill, Thomas' Sawmill - 1910-1912, Barney "Coodin" - 1928, SW 35 - 46-2-W5, J. R. Mullen - SW 25-46-2-W5, 1930's - Charlie Freeman and Albert Nadeau Mill at Battle Lake and Blindman Valley, Ed Nadeau Sawmill.

SENSATION AT MINNEHIK

The small village of Minnehik was astir with excitement, for had they not experienced a real bank robbery.

Early in the forenoon, Dick Bowan from his blacksmith shop at the corner, saw the big car stop in front of the main entrance of the Farmers Commercial Bank. Two ulster clad figures alighted, entering the bank in the most matter of fact way; a few minutes later they reappeared and sprang into the car, disappearing in a cloud of dust.

The following morning, the "Minnehik Sun" published a full account of the daring robbery.

"The total loss in currency amounting to twenty-six dollars and forty-five cents, and only for the coolness and courage of Mr. Brown (teller) this amount would have at least been doubled.

"It was indeed displaying great foresight on his part, that on entering the cage on that particular morning, he had secreted a similar amount on his person.

"For his noble act of precaution he was highly commended by the manager, who at the time of the robbery was putting through a horse trade with "Red" Wilson, owner of the Top Notch livery. As this paper goes to press, the culprits are still at large; but the police are scouring the country, and expect in the course of a few days to have them in the iron grip of the law."

The bank staff consists of Manager Parker, Mr. Brown (teller) and Mr. A. Siegel, junior clerk.

The latter, though still in the early 'teens, took this robbery affair very seriously, for had he not seen the wicked-eyed bandit looking in his direction, as he covered the teller with an ugly little automatic pistol.

One afternoon, while engaged in totalling a long column of figures, an idea suddenly developed in his mind. If there had been a trap door concealed in the floor just in front of the teller's wicket, which would drop by means of a lever operated by the teller, they could have sent the daring bank robber into the dark recesses of the cellar, where he would be at their mercy.

The long column of figures was quickly placed to one side; then with paper and pencil he drew his plan. "Yes, the whole thing was simplicity itself."

The trap door being held in place by a bolt to which a strong wire was attached, this in turn was fastened to an upright lever which entered up through the floor of the teller's cage, a violent kick of the lever released the bolt allowing the trap door to drop with it's victim.

On the completion of his plan, he tip-toed to the manager's private office and there disclosed his scheme to his superior.

Manager Parker was a man of shrewd mental efficiency also being something of a sport, he assured Mr. Siegel that his capital idea would be put into effect at the earliest opportunity.

The following day a notice hanging at the front entrance of the bank read--"Owing to some alterations being made to the interior, business will be suspended for the day."

Ebby Wilson was the man chosen for the intricate piece of work, being first sworn to secrecy. By evening the job was completed. Repeatedly they tested the lever, and in every case the huge trap door dropped, leaving a yawning hole in the floor.

As the floor would only mean a drop of eight feet, and the cellar floor being Mother Earth, no robber would receive much physical harm; on the other hand, if the descent jarred his nerves, all the better.

The next day business was resumed. All the forenoon numerous patrons conducted their business before the teller's wicket, never dreaming that a half inch bolt was the only thing that held them on a level with their surrounding. And more than marvelled at the mirthful countenance of the teller, who usually took matters very seriously.

In the afternoon, Ebby Wilson cautiously approached the teller's cage, to make a deposit, and thinking of the small bolt beneath him, he firmly gripped the iron bars of the cage.

Frank Dixon, Larson and several other friends standing by, on seeing his action, thought he had been taken ill, and hastened to his side full of questioning sympathy.

This additional weight was too much for even a half inch bolt. As Wilson turned to assure them it was nothing serious, the bolt gave way.

With a shriek and a violent grabbing of space, Wilson and his friends made the descent.

The language that rose from that dark abyss, wherein Scandinavian and American slang was expressively delivered, would have shocked the walking boss of a lumber camp.

By the assistance of a step ladder the unfortunate victims were rescued and naturally much explanation was demanded by those who knew nothing of the robber trap.

Manager Parker expressed his deep regret, that so unfortunate a thing should have happened to his very best patrons.

But Frank Dixon who had lost one of the glasses of his spectacles by the fall, stubbornly maintained that it was a put up job.

And between you and me, if you run across Dick, avoid the subject.

Believed to be written by Dalton Tipping.

Lancelot and Pamela Mitchell and Family

Lance spent his early years in India where his father was a British Railways Engineer and owned a tea estate. His grandfather was a coffee planter, whose father had gone to India with the British Army and eventually settled there. Lance's father had jungle terrain, cleared by hand and grew fruit, a little coffee and ninety-five acres of tea. Later, after the independence of India and the death of his father, Lance and the family moved to England. In February 1957 Lance emigrated to Canada, as the prospects for farming seemed better here.

Pam grew up in Yorkshire, England and took teacher's training in London. After teaching for six years she decided to travel and came first to Canada in 1963 (partly as a result of hearing what a wonderful country it was from a visiting Canadian - Lance Mitchell).

Lance and Pam met again in Calgary and were married in August 1964. By this time Lance, after gaining experience through working on several farms, was hoping to buy land of his own. He heard about Mr. Gronow being ready to sell and bought the West $\frac{1}{2}$ 32-46-2-5 in 1965. So the first wedding anniversary was spent taking down the old fence line - he didn't remember the significance of the date - she had her first experience of mosquitos - rural variety. Pam found it a great change from the English farms with highly cultivated fields bordered with hedges. They met Mrs. Hildal while staying with Mr. and Mrs. Gronow.

In 1966 when Lancelot David was about two months old the family moved to the Wetaskiwin area in order to be nearer the farm, and Pam taught at the Queen Elizabeth School. That winter some land was cleared. In 1967 Mrs. Hildal's land, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ 32-46-2-5, was bought from the estate.

During the fall of 1969 Lance decided to move out to the farm and took up residence in Mrs. Hildal's house and soon started work on building a garage and workshop, twenty-four by forty. Pam continued teaching in Wetaskiwin until the end of the school year in June 1970, coming home at the weekends. She was able to secure a position at Winfield for the 1970-71 school year. Brenda Ruth was born on July 21st, 1971. Another highlight of 1971 was the building of a thirty-two by sixty hog-barn together with other buildings and corrals. This summer the county rebuilt the road past the farm and it was sad to see all the bush destroyed and feel the wintry blasts in full force. One future plan is to replant a windbreak during the spring of 1972.

Walter Mockerman

In March 1929, Walter Mockerman and his son, Ordie, came to the Breton area to work for Anthony saw mill and filed on homestead, N $\frac{1}{2}$ 16-47-4-5, In July 1930 from Mr. A. C. Gillies, sub agent for the Dept. of Interior Dominion Lands, for the sum of \$10.00.

Prior to this, the family had lived at Calmar, Alta., and Washington, U.S.A. Walter married the former Lorena Thomas, a school teacher in the U.S.A., and in May 1929 the remaining family moved to the Antross district by teams and wagons and lived in the log house they built. Their first source of water was a dug well of fourteen feet.

The first tax notice in 1931 for the NE 16-47-4-5 was \$6.50 and the homestead was appraised at \$500.00.

Margarete, the oldest daughter married Fin McNabb in 1932 and Louise married Harold McIntyre in 1931. Ordie married the former Mary Ratz in 1944 and they reside on the same farm. They had two children, Ernie and Jeanette.

In July 1950 Walter died and his wife lives with a daughter in Vancouver, B.C., and is ninety-one years of age.

The farm was sold in 1967 to Roy Matheson and it was the first time the farm had changed hands since it was homesteaded.

Mrs. Dorothy (Weaver) Molinnis

In the year 1920 my husband, Sam Weaver, and I, with two small children, Jean and Neil, moved into the Pendryl district to start homesteading on a quarter of land that is now farmed by the Betlamini boys.

After my husband's discharge from the army, he operated a store in Calgary and later in Vancouver before moving to the homestead.

While living on the homestead we started a small general store. Although we had a Ford truck, it was impossible to travel over the roads at that time. All freight had to be hauled in from Wetaskiwin over muskeg and stretches of corduroy road.

On a business trip to Wetaskiwin, my husband was taken ill and went to Calgary for treatment where he passed away in 1923.

By this time, the Township Line had been opened up and became the main road into the area. The store was then moved over to the Swan quarter where Mr. George Dewar had built a house for me. I carried on the store business and when a nursing district was established, a cottage for the nurse was built close by the store.

I sold the store in 1926 to Gust Bjur and moved to Calgary and later married John Molinnis and moved to a farm in the Strathmore district in 1927. My husband, John, passed away in 1969 and I now live in Calgary.

John Molnar

John Molnar and his wife came to the Buck Lake district in 1930 from Calgary. They had one child, Bill. They moved to Windsor, Ont. in 1946.

MORIN

Nellie May Snell was born in Salina, Kansas in 1880 and was united in marriage to Antoine Morin at Concord, Alberta. Antoine Morin was born in Sherbrooke, Quebec and moved to Alberta in 1902.

To this union were born three children; a boy, Ray; and two girls, Jean and Alice.

Nellie died in Ponoka in 1946. Antoine died in Kelowna, B.C. two years later. Alice lives on the old homestead at Buck Lake, Alberta, which her parents proved up in 1914.

Mrs. Alice McLean.

Joe and Charlie Moonen

Joe and Charlie Moonen homesteaded in 1909 and 1910. Charlie walked behind and herded cattle being brought in by Mr. Pellon and other homesteaders. Wm. Brown, Henry's father, later homesteaded Charlie's quarter in 1911. Mr. Grasser, Mr. Pellon, Mr. E. Haggkvist, then Hector Letourneau in this order, lived on this land, now owned by Ron Willows.

Joe married Francis Kovar. His wife and infant later died. Charlie married Elizabeth Kovar, sister of Francis. Joe left in 1914 but returned in the '30's and hauled lumber from Bear Creek Mill. He was the first to use a truck pulling a sleigh trailer from Bear Creek to Winfield.

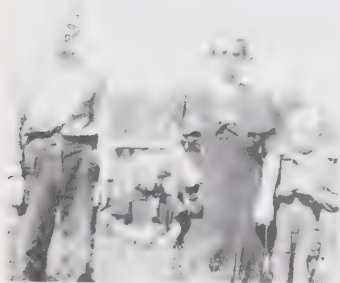
Mrs. Pellon passed away and was buried on the creek bank on the eastern side of Buck Lake. Mr. Pellon moved out in 1914. Mr. Kovar owned a small saw mill on land owned by Fred Kuhn. He got caught in the saw and was killed. A box social planned for the next evening was cancelled and school didn't resume until Monday after this tragedy.

The Pete Morkunas Story by Jennie (Morkunas) Labutis

My father, Pete Morkunas was born in Lithuania in 1898. In 1925 he married Pransciska Kersevicute. My brother, Alphonse, was born in 1926.

As the population increased, Lithuania was becoming more and more crowded. If a man had a farm, as his sons married they were given a portion of farmland. So a farm might be 40 acres in size and people lived very close together even in the rural area. Although this made farm life sociable, it was a hardship on the young as there was less opportunity for making a living. Because of this, young men were leaving and searching in new lands for a better life. Stories came back from those who had made new homes in the United States, of the wonderful opportunities and riches to be had there and in Canada.

In June of 1928, Dad made the decision to come to Canada. Leaving Mom and Alphonse at home, he came across on the ship Lapland. He came to Edmonton, but found jobs very scarce, as they were in all parts of the country in those depression years. He worked for a farmer feeding pigs for not much more than room and



Morkunas family: Alphonse, Mrs. P. Morkunas, Charlie.

board. Riding the rails back to Montreal, he worked at odd jobs. Canada was a great disappointment, nothing like the great Promised Land he had heard about. He would gladly have returned to the Old Country had money been available.

Leaving Montreal in 1930, Dad worked at a logging camp at Rocky Mountain House. In 1928 he took over a homestead, the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ 2-47-2-5, for the sum of \$10.00, plus \$35.00 for improvements made by the previous homesteader - a log house 16' x 20', and five acres of cleared land.

In September 1932, he sent for Mom and Alphonse, making a down payment on the \$300.00 cost of the trip. They came over on the ship Montrose, then came by train to Sunnybrook. Dad went for them with horses and wagon. Mom was even more dismayed at life in Canada. She had left a comfortable home where friends and loved ones were a short walk away. She left possessions, bringing only a bare minimum of her household linens with her, some home-woven bedspreads, towels and linen table cloths. The wail of the coyotes brought terror and loneliness to her. The log house was papered with cardboard boxes and newspapers, (the Free Press Weekly). It got a new papering job at Christmas and Easter. The furniture was homemade except for the stove, and consisted of beds, table, cupboard, and long benches to sit on. The bath tub for the children was made from a huge log sawed length-wise and hollowed out inside - very tippy. It would be set close to the hot stove, and though braced to keep it from rocking, when we kids started fooling around, it was a wonder we weren't "branded".

Charlie, Nora and I, were born here. Mom would put her bedspreads on the floor to protect us from the cold a little. How she longed for, and needed, many of the things she had left behind. Her precious table cloths graced the table on special occasions only.

Dad got a job working for Snell, sawing logs for $1\frac{1}{2}\text{¢}$ a log contract, or \$15.00 a month from which compensation was deducted. He later bought a horse and wages were better, as he got the $1\frac{1}{2}\text{¢}$ a log and on his best days, skidded up to 200 logs, most days about 150.

Dad worked for Snell for about five years. Before a camp was built the men slept in hay stacks that were at the site for feeding the horses. Dad was fortunate in being able to go home at night, and having supper and breakfast there. Alphonse brought lunch over to him at noon, the lunch usually consisting of brown bread and lard and fried bacon. They were logging on Section 36, so it was quite a walk for a small boy.

There were other Lithuanians that worked at the camp, and when Saturday night rolled around, six or eight men would gather at the homestead, and with the help of some home-made spirits and piles of Mom's potato pancakes, could for a time, forget their hardships and loneliness. This was, after all, their only recreation so they enjoyed the evening and most of the next day to the fullest.

When the sawmill closed down, Dad would cut tamarac rails, (each rail made two fence posts) and deliver them to farmers in the Millet and Wetaskiwin district. He got his first cow in trade for tamarac rails. He later bought another for twelve dollars and built up a herd of six cows. Butter was made and sold for 11¢ a pound at Fisher Home store which was then operated by Bill Woods Sr. Dad's other source of income was fishing. As there were no commercial buyers, the fish were sold by peddling. Later Mr. Carlson, Mr. Frome and Mr. Willie Rinas were some of the buyers.

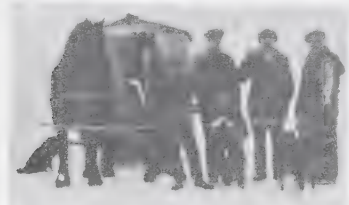
Alphonse started school when he was nine years of age. He walked five miles to Fisher Home, the only school around. As there was no bridge over the creek and the land was very marshy, this was an exceptionally miserable trip to make daily. Four years later the North Yeoford School was built and this was only four miles, and there was a road.

For the first few years he was in Canada, Alphonse wore the wooden shoes, which he brought over from Lithuania. One day he went to town and bought a pair of rubbers, such as are worn over felt boots. With these over his heavy wool socks, he could really run, and for two days his pet dog couldn't keep up with him.

Charlie and I started school at Yeoford, walked, rode horseback or took the sled in winter. On several occasions Charlie persuaded me (with a little pressure) to stop the lumber truck, then a couple of miles of real comfort were enjoyed.



Ozzie Labutes, Alphonse Morkunas



Fishing on Pigeon Lake the shack protects from the cold. L. to R. - Arnold Baumann, Phil Mikey, John Baumann with one of the big ones. In front Fred Baumann with his catch.

In 1941, Dad bought the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ 2-47-2-5 for \$700.00 and moved family and stock to the new location. In 1947 he bought the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ 2-47-2-5, then owned by Mr. Kurt Stoehr (now living in Rimbey). Dad also rented the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ 2-47-2-5.

In 1956 Mom passed away. In 1958 Dad sold the farm to Ozzie and I and moved back to the homestead. In 1963 he retired and moved into Wetaskiwin. He passed away in August 1970.

Alphonse and Charlie remained unmarried and live in the Wetaskiwin district. Nora married Stan Stafford, have three children, Dwayne, Brian and Blair and farm at Valleyview. I married Ozzie Labutis and we have three children, Stephanie, Deanna and David. The years of hard work are at last paying off, and we have been able to modernize the farm and build a new house which we moved into on Christmas Eve, 1970.

George and Ed Moyer

George Moyer born March 11th, 1869, homesteaded SE 28-46-2-5. He lived up on the hillside overlooking a small lake to N.W. of Battle Lake called Moyers Lake by all who knew him and many who didn't. He passed away in 1950. The two lakes are separated only by Mount Butte which has a plateau on top.

His brother Ed homesteaded about six miles west on NE 27-46-3-5. He loved to cook so often invited friends in for meals but usually served them to the community.

The "Callis or Kallis" family lived with George for a while and then moved to the SW 3-46-2-5.

P.J. Mullen by James R. Mullen

My father, P. J. Mullen, became financially interested in lumber shortly after coming to Alberta in 1899 and along about 1904 started the Pigeon Lake Saw Mills Co. The company purchased timber lands on the East and West sides and on the North end of Pigeon Lake, but confined operations to the Mulhurst and Bonnie Glen areas until about 1908 by which time the timber was depleted and the mill had burned. The company was then dissolved, with my father retaining the timber limits.

In 1915 he set up a mill on Sec. 1-47-2-5, but ceased operations the following spring and did not start again until the fall of 1919, when Rupert Brothers and Ed Nadeau moved their mills onto Section 25-46-2-5, the latter to continue operations in that area for many years.

Later Ray Wolf of Millet completed logging off Sec. 1. and moved his mill to another of our limits North of the old Fisher Home P.O. About this time Frieman Bros. contracted to saw on Sec. 25 and in 1923 we purchased a mill to complete logging and sawing sometime in 1924.

Compared to today's logging and sawing operations the old methods were very wasteful. However, work was provided for the settlers and even the seemingly low rate of \$1.00 per day and board for 10 hours work was very acceptable. We paid \$6.00 per 1000 board feet for hauling lumber to Wetaskiwin by team and wagon, and received only \$18.00 to \$26.00 for it at the lumber yard or loaded in box cars.

My father died in Wetaskiwin in 1925, leaving my mother and ten children, of whom I am the eldest. We eight sons have succeeded moderately well after very trying experiences in the depression of the thirties. Three are in business in Los Angeles, one in Fort Saskatchewan and one in Calmar, while one is retired and living in Red Deer and two of us in Millet.

I can truthfully say that saw milling taught me to work and I still enjoy hard, physical labor and it's accomplishments more than anything. Memories of those days are often recalled, along with our friendly relations with our neighbours, the Cortsman's, Youngs, Hempstocks, Eastmans and Hunters, and our dealings with Mr. McRae at Westeros and Mr. Nowell at the Yeoford store.

The Murfitt Story by Mary (Murfitt) Phippen

My Grandparents, William Balding Murfitt and Annie Elizabeth Hatch, were married on April 16th, 1890, at Straffordville, Ontario, and made their home at Tilsonberg. Three children were born to them while they lived here, Laura Eleanor, Mirton William and Herbert Isaac. In the fall of 1899, answering the call to the New West, "Land of Opportunity", he took the train to Calgary, then transferred to a mixed train from Calgary to Wetaskiwin. Going a little east of there, he filed on a homestead in the Doreenlee area. Grandma and

the children joined him in the spring of 1900. Another daughter, Margaret Annie, was born in 1901. Aunt Laura and Dad had started school in Ontario, but when they came out to the homestead they found themselves without one nearby. As eight pupils were needed before one could be started, it was three years before they again attended classes. Dad went for one term and then had to leave to help his father. In 1908, he went out to work, driving horses on a two wheel scraper for Johnson and Johnny Scharff, building the Grand Trunk Railroad from Edmonton to Stony Plain for \$35.00 a month plus board - real good wages in those days. On a trip to Edmonton with us shortly before he died, Dad marvelled at the growth of Edmonton. He said, of those days, when he worked there, that he had walked around (the circumference) Edmonton in little over an hour. On Sunday afternoons he and some friends would go for walks and would raft and boat on the river getting back late in the afternoon. Grandpa thought he was having too wild a time so insisted he return home and take work out there at \$25.00 a month.



Grandma and Grandpa Murfit

The family were hailed out in 1908, so in the spring of 1909 they rented a farm, the old Stretch place, 8 miles N.W. of Ponoka, for a year. While there Grandpa and Dad were the first to deliver a load of grain to the newly built Hobbema elevator. In the spring of 1910 the family moved 6 miles north of Wetaskiwin. Dad went up to the Peace River area looking for land but came back unsatisfied with it.

He worked with Pete Nestland putting in the first sewer in Wetaskiwin, and through him, heard of land available in the Battle Lake-Yeoford area. He took the team and drove out to look at it, liked what he saw, and filed on the SE 35-46-3-5. Dad got the NW 36-46-3-5 for Grandpa for \$800.00. He added the SW 35-46-3-5 to his. Three years later Herbert got a quarter of land farther north east for \$400.00.

The winter of 1910-11, Grandpa and Dad hauled machinery, hay and most of the furniture out to the homestead with the team and sleigh. They built a pole shed, putting hay in the walls and on top, to serve until a barn could be built. They built a house using rough lumber and second cut boards and tar paper on the roof. They divided it with a partition, and put a floor in the one part for the family to live in, and the other part was to be used as a shelter for the chickens and some of the horses. In the spring they brought out a load including a dog, cat and chickens. Sixteen year old Herbert came out with them on this trip



and stayed to look after the stock while Grandpa and Dad returned for Grandma, Aunt Margaret and the last of their belongings. Using two wagons, they added to the load enough groceries to last for much of the summer, as the nearest store would be about twelve miles distant. This trip from the Ole Felton farm $6\frac{1}{2}$ miles north of Wetaskiwin, out to Yeoford took $2\frac{1}{2}$ days. Aunt Margaret tells about the last part of this trip as follows "The road west from Battle Lake P. O. ran along the north side of Battle Lake and Moyers Lake. It had been graded the preceding fall, and as the frost was just coming out, the road was a virtual quagmire in places. They had to put four horses on a wagon to pull it through the mudholes. The men would take the lead team and go back and put them on the second wagon and bring it through, go a mile or so until they hit another mud hole and repeat the whole process again. Mr. Arthur

Bunney finally came along with a team. He had just unloaded groceries at Fullertons store at Battle Lake. He put chains on the back axle of his wagon and attached it to the draw bolt of our wagon and in this way helped pull our load to his place. Then they went with one team to pull the other load through."

"The Bunneys ran a lodging house, so we stayed there overnight and went to the homestead next day. Mother Bunney was a lovely grey haired motherly lady and a wonderful cook. She made us feel right at home. Next morning we set out, again putting four horses on one wagon for these last few miles of our journey. The wagons sank down to the wheel hubs in mud so it was a tough haul. When we finally arrived at the homestead, Herbert was anxiously waiting for us, having spent a very uneasy night. He had been awakened by the dog barking and the crash of a window. It had snowed a bit and he found bear tracks just outside the window. Apparently the bear had smelled the chickens but was frightened away by the dog, after breaking the window. Herbert had nailed a potato sack over the window. He was very happy when we arrived as he had heard a lot of stories about bears breaking their way into houses for food and making a real mess of things."

They all helped to clear the land and make a garden, then planted a few acres of oats for the horses. The men started building a barn of logs and got the chickens and horses out

of the house. Then they dug a cellar and put the floor in the rest of the house. This done, Grandpa and Dad went to work on the road being put through from the east a mile south of there, and worked on it most of the summer. Grandma, Uncle Herbie and Aunt Margaret cleared land and cut brush so the men could break more land. Toward fall they sowed winter rye. When it started to grow, they cut it green in the spring for hay and again in the fall for more hay to feed the horses through winter. As the hay meadow was very rough, it had to be cut by hand with a scythe.

In order to bring in money, Dad worked with his team for government bridge gangs in 1911-12, and for over fourteen months he hauled two carloads of lumber from Hobbema to Mill-et and to the west country for road culverts.

In 1912 the Seattle School was built. Aunt Margaret was eleven. She recalls "It was 3 miles, so brother bought me a pony named Pedro at a sale near Wetaskiwin. The children liked to ride him at school during noon hour. Our teacher, Phillip Rosseter got on him, and as he bucked if you touched his flanks, the teacher thought it was fun to make him buck. But he bucked too hard and hurt the teachers back. There was no more teasing Pedro."

Walter Fullerton had a grocery and hardware store on the east end of Battle Lake. He also had a sawmill. Some of the early neighbours Aunt Margaret remembers were Peter, Albert and Oscar Nesland; the Lloyds, Bunneys, Miltons, Roy McLeod, Peter Campbell, the Elliots, Andersons, Henry Millers, Peter Callis family, Eric Norlin, Hjelmer and Ludwig Frieberg, and Andy Carlson.



Minne Murtitt at her hobby of sock knitting

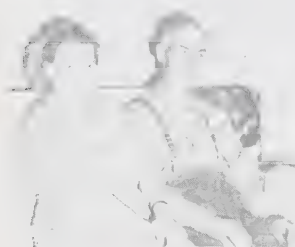
The land was cleared by hand, then broke with teams of three or four horses on a walking breaker plough. The main crops were oats and rye. Water was hauled from a spring one-eighth mile away. In order to have enough feed for the stock, Dad found it necessary to haul hay from east of Falun. He would start out with the team about four in the morning and return about midnight, rest the team a day and go again the following day - long gruelling trips for man and team and says Mirt "I used to chew bitter bark to keep from going to sleep. Now I chew it to keep awake in church.

Poor roads were the main handicap in those early days but lack of medical care, was a close second. There was no doctor closer than Wetaskiwin, and for a while not even a nurse. Mrs. Sanford Nelson had been a nurse, or had a couple years training, so the homesteaders would call on her for help. Mr. Tom Ward, who lived near the Knob Hill Cemetery used to pull teeth for people without any anaesthetic, - sometimes quite painful, but better than a tooth-ache.

Entertainment was "home made". Dances were held in the homes with local orchestras. George Bridges played the violin for entertainment and dancing.

There was a Baptist minister worked in Fullertons sawmill. He would walk to Grandpa Bunney's where a horse was kept saddled ready for him. He would ride about 5-6 miles to the Lloyds home, where he held services every second Sunday, then ride back, leave the horse and walk the rest of the way home. He also had services in the Battle Lake Church. He baptized Margaret and Herbert.

The first Post Office was along the old Battle Lake road and I believe the first Post Masters name was Morrison, or maybe Marsden.



Mr. and Mrs. Mirt Murfitt

In order to supplement the meagre income of the homestead, men would fire fight (out west of Rocky), work building roads and in sawmills and logging camps. Logs were floated down Poplar Creek to the North Saskatchewan river and on to Edmonton. There was a mill located where the High Level Bridge now stands. Dad worked for Eric Norlin hauling freight to this mill. Saw mills were numerous in the area and lumber was hauled into Wetaskiwin by team. Most hauling was done in winter when the trails were frozen.

With his folks settled on the homestead and the work begun, Dad went to work for Charlie Olin who homesteaded farther west. He had borrowed money from the bank to buy a team when they moved out to the homestead and had the last payment to make when Mr. Olin died. As the estate was tied up, Dad was unable to get his pay cheque. He made three trips to Wetaskiwin, walking the near 100 mile round trip each time to see the bank, requesting an extension of the loan. On the third trip he mentioned the reason for the delay. The manager, surprised, quickly allayed his worries, as Mr. Olin's account was in excellent standing. Dad was assured that as soon as the estate was settled, his loan would be paid off. He had worried so much over this debt

that he vowed he'd never borrow again - and he didn't.

In 1914 he freighted for Dave Ricer logging outfit, hauling from Wetaskiwin for \$1.00 a hundred. In 1917-18 he again went out working, harvesting and ranching at Maclin, Sask. Then he went back home and helped Grandpa put up a sturdy log barn in 1918. In the winters of 1919 - 1920 he worked in coal mines at Dinette, nine miles north of Camrose, loading coal on cars. Each car held 1400 lbs. of coal and was loaded with a 12 tined fork at 50¢ a carload. As the winter of 1920 was mild, work at the mine slackened and pay was so poor that he went back out west and worked in the sawmills for Mullen, Fullerton, Snell and Ed Nadeau.

Grandpa and Grandma built a house and barn up on their quarter and moved up there and worked to bring it into production.

Dad and Mom, (Minnie Rathgeber, whose family had moved to the area from Medicine Hat) were married on December 20th, 1929. They went by team to Wetaskiwin, where the Lutheran minister, Rev. Appelt, performed the ceremony. They stayed in town a day and returned home the next, bringing with them lumber, bricks and other material needed for building a new house.

I was born the following September 14th, 1930, in the original homestead shack, arriving ahead of Grandma Murfitt, who was to assist me into the world, and my first months were spent here. On the night before Christmas 1930, we moved into the new house.

Myrtle was born on September 27th, 1931. It is interesting to note that she was the seventh of the Murfitt clan to be born in September - Grandma, her four children, myself and Myrtle. Margaret broke with tradition and chose July 15th, 1933, with Albert following her example, and being born on July 8th, 1936.

As the Seattle School was 3 miles by road, when I was six, Dad made a trail through the bush and the first days carried me on his back to and from school.

Both Dad and Mom were very hard workers and we children learned early to do the same, taking on work that would seem very arduous to children of today and to many parents. Dad was road boss for a while, so we worked out in the hay fields. Dad made us forks of willows that were more our size. We came home at dusk and milked the cows. Baling then, was done by crews. They came in for a few days and baled a shedfull of hay at a time. Hay was sold to bush camps to feed the horses.

We children did the janitor work at school for \$4.00 a month. I remember starting the fires at school and having to go to school though the other children, who usually joined us along the trail might be absent. Then, it would be a long cold lonesome walk. One morning Myrtle and I were there and made fire, and found out after the teacher came that it was 60 below at the Knob Hill P. O. As the teacher, Myrtle and I were the only ones there, we went home again.

Dad and Mom had a big garden and huge potato patch. They made hot beds and grew and sold bedding plants as well as the garden produce. Potatoes were in great demand at the camps. Busy as they were, they still found time to start and nurture a lovely flower garden. Mom knitted both by hand and with the auto-knitter and averaged 200 pairs of socks and mitts over a winter which she sold and traded for household needs. There was a constant demand for her handiwork and many depended on it over the years, to keep feet and hands warm during the coldest winters.

From the first spring, they raised chickens and sold eggs. One day, Mom and Olga Olin were driving to Winfield with team and buggy and a load of eggs. The pin came out of the double tree, but the horses kept going. The buggy tipped, upsetting them and the eggs. Fortunately, Ken Stone came along and stopped the horses before further damage was done.

Medical care was rugged in those days too. Mrs. DeWitt did some nursing. She helped deliver Myrtle. Later Mrs. Heldal nursed throughout the area giving us our "shots", etc. A doctor from Wetaskiwin would come out to the community halls at a centre, and people would come to be checked over. Beds were set up and curtained off. An operating area was set up and curtained off for minor operations. Dr. would remove tonsils, adenoids and teeth and do circumcisions. Those who had operations remained in a bed until the anaesthetic wore off, then were carted home lying in a wagon box. We must have been a hardy lot, as I never heard of any ill effects resulting from the process.

Grandpa Murfitt died in January 1939, on the farm, working on it until shortly before his death. Grandma Murfitt continued to live there until her passing in April 1944. They



Mirt Murfitt Family -
B.R. - Laura Kravik,
Minnie Murfitt, Mirt
Murfitt. F.R. Mary,
Margaret and Myrtle
about 1935

were both laid to rest in the Knob Hill cemetery. Aunt Laura had married Ole Kravik in 1909. They farmed at Doreenlee and had five children. She passed away in March 1971. Uncle Herbie left the farm and is residing in Red Deer. Aunt Margaret left the homestead when she was 14, and went to stay with Aunt Laura at Doreenlee where she attended school, accompanying her nephew for his first year of school. She later worked in the area and married Olie Simonson in December 1919. Olie worked on the railroad. They lived at Doreenlee until 1933, then moved to Ferintosh where she still resides. They have 11 children. Olie passed away several years ago.

I married John (Jack) Fhippen on November 12th, 1948, at Battle Lake Church, and we farm on his and his father's homestead. We have three children, Gayle, Darrel and Brian. Gayle married Dwayne Bailey and they have a son, Clint. They live in the Pipestone district.

Myrtle married Ken Schmidt and they farm north-east of Wetaskiwin. They have five children, Sherry, Wendy, Dwayne, Debbie and Colleen. Margaret married Tom Molonyeaux. They live at Ponoka and also have five children, Ralph, Connie, Owen, Kevin and Laurie.

Albert married Dorothy Hamilton of Fort McLeod. They have three children, Daryn, Darcy and Cheryl. After working at various jobs, Albert returned to the farm where he and Dorothy built a new house a short distance from the folks. Their children are the fourth generation to live on this place.

It is interesting to note that Dorothy's grandmother, Mrs. Catherine (Maclean-nee) Hamilton born at Arden, Manitoba in 1877, was the first white girl born between Winnipeg and Edmonton. She was 90 when she passed away.

On September 30th, 1957, the power line came through bringing light at the flick of a switch, and conveniences unthought of in the early years. Dad turned the farm over to Albert in the spring of 1961, but he and Mom continued to live and work there. Dad kept active and very busy until illness forced him to stop. We children got him a T.V. set which he enjoys very much especially the last few months of his life. He died on July 1st, 1968. Mom was not well, so after a while went to live with Myrtle and Ken. She has her own house on their farm, and keeps busy knitting and baby sitting.

It's over sixty years since Dad first came out in search of a dream, his own farm. He found it out here in the Yeoford district, and though the years were difficult and the work back breaking, he found fulfillment. He loved his acres, and found peace on them.

Joe Midtdal

Joe Midtdal and his wife, Esther, live on the NE 29-46-1-5. They have four children. One daughter, Mildred is married to Louis Rattray, and is living at Falun. They have one son Gary who teaches school at Winfield. Lonnie and Gary have two children. Midtdal's sons Gordon - bachelor, Ronnie - married to Leonna Fontaine. He and his family live at Battle Lake. Roy married Catherine Huff and they have four children - Carol - Mrs. Al Stewart at Edmonton. Allan married Wendy Hunt and they have three children, Daryl, Tanny and Del. Roy and Allan live by Battle Lake. Randy and Debbie are still at home.



Roy Midtdal family - 1971
Back - Randy, Alan,
Roy, Carol, Catherine
Debbie
on NW5-46-1-5.

William Myronuck

William Myronuck, who farmed in the Andrew district, also worked as a local blacksmith for many years, and Alex Forchuk, who was a hired hand to farmers, whoever needed help, heard that homesteads in this area were open for filing. They decided to come out and have a look. They built a flat rack, six feet wide by twelve feet long, built the sides about three feet high, then covered it with canvas. With a good supply of pots, pans, blankets, axes, spades, etc., salt pork beans, flour and baking powder and hay, they started out in the spring of 1930, approximately two hundred mile trip. They would stop along the way to bed and



water the horses, also give them a well deserved rest. They bought baled hay, which was tied with baling wire at that time, when they ran short of feed. It took them six days to get here. When they got to the Wash-Out Creek, there was no bridge of any kind where George Kohut homesteaded. Schyler Durant purchased from him later on. The creek was flooded. They were deciding how to get across when two young chaps rode up on horseback. The four of them cut down big logs, tied them securely with the baling wire, which they saved from the bales. It took them a day and a half to get this bridge finished. They made it safely across, but to their disappointment found out there was a long stretch of muskeg ahead of them, with no trail at all. They stripped the wagon completely, and carried all their belongings, about three quarters of a mile to higher dry land. Then they unhooked the horses from the wagon, got a long logging chain from Charlie Parker, who was settled here already at that time, hitched the horses to the chain and pulled the wagon with the chain a little at a time, clearing the fallen debris ahead as they slowly progressed along. It took them a whole day to get across this stretch. When they got to the place where Jim Capanuik is settled now, they just unhitched the horses, put them on the picket line, and decided to have some lunch, when a sudden heavy rain and hail storm hit them. The hail was the size of chicken eggs. One horse got hit on a vital spot and collapsed. William and Alex grabbed large pans over their heads, took a spare canvas from the wagon, ran to the horse, covered him up and both men, under the canvas took their jackets off, massaged the horse till he revived. In the meantime, the storm subsided. Then they sat down to a much deserved lunch of salt pork and baking powder biscuits, and then a good rest.

They filed on homesteads, Alex Forchuk, where he is settled at present, William Myroniuk filed on a quarter of land a half mile south of Alex. They remained here for a month or so, making some improvements. Alex decided to stay here and built a little shack, while William returned to Andrew.

The bridge they built was used for a long time, till someone tried to cross it with too heavy a load and it collapsed.

Then in the springs of 1931, 1932 and 1933, William with his covered wagon, made the trips back here. Roads were in much better condition each time. He was required by regulations to live on the homestead six weeks and do a certain amount of improvements. He built a little log shack, which is still standing now, also hired George and Bill Toderovich with horses and a plow to break the required number of acres. This land was rented to John Scrobaylo, who was settled in this vicinity already. William decided to sell out at Andrew and move here lock, stock and barrel in 1940. His daughter, Julia, with her husband, Metro Chapchuk, helped him move, to get him settled here and move on to B.C., but got to like the country so much, they decided to settle here too. They purchased the quarter of land which was owned by Stanley Watson, half mile south of her father's place and have been there since then.

In the meantime, Alex Forchuk decided to return to Andrew in 1936 to marry his girl friend, Katie Ubrobets, and instead of going on a honeymoon, they immediately returned here to their one room log shack. Alex had \$2.75 between them and starvation. He purchased fifty pounds of flour, five pounds of lard, some salt, tea, also bought a few bundles of green feed at three cents a bundle from a farmer here. He dug a ditch about twenty feet long, three feet deep and about two feet wide. He placed the bundles in the ditch, then laid thin willow twigs across the ditch. The rabbits, which were plentiful at that time and in great demand, came to feed, would step on the twigs and fall in the pit. Alex, equipped with a club, killed them as fast as they would come and piled them in heaps. Metro Shemko, collected these rabbits at a price of one cent each, shipped them to Calgary to the mink farms. This is how Alex made a living. Later on he was employed for a number of years in the lumber mill for Etter and McDougall.

When William Myroniuk moved here in 1941, he brought all his blacksmithing tools, so immediately put up a building and set up his shop. He was the local blacksmith in this district from 1941 to 1961. He had customers from as far as Buck Creek, Buck Lake and Winfield. When Emile Letourn operated a sawmill, owned by Bill Fraser, William was the blacksmith in the No. 6 lumber camp each winter from 1949 to 1951. He farmed and ran his blacksmithing till 1961 when he decided to hang his blacksmithing tools up and retire. He moved to Wetaksiwin, batched for a few years, then moved to the Lutheran's Home for the Aged. When his eyesight started failing him, he was moved to the Canadian Institute for the Blind, where he is at present.

William owned two horses, his only means of transportation to our little hamlet, Alder Flats, three miles away, owned by George Kohut at that time. Not having any facilities to

keep milk and meat from spoiling, he would make a trip to town with the team, practically every day. On different occasions when he was busy or not up to it, to go to town, these two horses would somehow get out on the road and walk along the road to town, and stand, side by side at the hitch rail, which was directly in front of the store. Then about two hours later or so would decide to come back home.

Metro Chapchuk's oldest son, James, in 1945 was old enough to start school which was three miles away. Since they lived one and a quarter miles south from what is the main road now, there was only a little trail to their residence, with deep mud holes through the forest. His parents did not want to let him walk, as there were all kinds of wild animals, bears, etc., and having no other means of transportation, they bought him a big white horse. This horse making a trip to school and back every day, was well acquainted with the directions. On several occasions Jame's father would saddle the horse, bring him to the doorstep of the house, if James was ready to go, would mount on the horse, saw to it that he got the scholar to school safely and in time. But if the horse was left waiting, unattended by the door, and Jimmy would take his time about getting ready, the horse would take off and head straight for school into his stall in the school barn, waiting to take Jimmy back home. This little incident happened several times.

Julia Chapchuk.

The Albert Nadeau's



CREE VALEY SCHOOL in Battle Lake district (about 1933 or 1934). Back row (left to right): Gwyneth Gronow, Willah Jones, Gunhild Frome, LaRenne Nadeau, Alice Young. Middle Row: Olive Nadeau, Doreen Fullerton, Marie Nadeau, Mary Dooley, Eirwin Gronow, Marion Hagen, Willa Huff, Catherine Huff, Delia Bachand. Front Row: Kels Hagen peeking around Buddy Nadeau, Billy Freeman, Bobby Hay, Albert Bachand, Armand Nadeau, Henry Frome. Cross-legged in very front: Axel Frome, Edward Gronow.

Albert and Alma Nadeau and their three children, Olive, Marie and Armand moved out to Battle Lake in the last part of 1929. Two other children were born in the Wetaskiwin Hospital later. Frances in 1933 and Bernadine in 1935.

They moved from Legal, Alberta by car and settled on the north shore of Battle Lake on the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of 13, right below the big hill. The house was a five room one and was made of lumber (it still stands today and is owned by Delia and Gordon Henderson).

Albert and his brother-in-law, Willie Bachand, (who moved out with him) fished and trapped for a living the first winter. The following summer they both worked on constructing the road along the lake which remains relatively the same today except for a few minor changes and some gravel, only on both ends - none along the lake - to the dismay of many.

Albert then went into the sawmill business with Charlie Freeman at Bloomfield Lake and Blindman's Creek. He was also a qualified steam engineer. They contracted to Ward Snell. He continued in this type of business until his death in April of 1952.

The water supply was taken from the lake the first winter and then a spring was located across the road from the house and used until a well was dug a year later. This well is still usable today.

The closest stores were at Westeros then owned by Mr. MacCrae and clerked by Archie Steadman, and at Yeoford owned by Mr. J. P. Nowell.

The first post office was located in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ken Hunter and it also housed the only other link with the outside world - the telephone. Mr. Hunter, the postmaster, was always ready and willing to receive and deliver messages any time of the day or night.

The closest neighbour was Willie Bachand and later on Charlie Freeman. George Kimmy and family lived about a mile away and the Jones were also fairly close. They ran the municipal office.

There was little farming done at the time, but this was improved upon later. Milk was sold for 5¢ a quart delivered.

Forms of entertainment consisted of house parties and school dances while skating and sleigh riding were mainly the childrens entertainment. The annual school Christmas

concert was the highlight of the year. Baseball came into glory in the summer, when the exciting games were played on the land of Mr. Fullerton on the east end of the lake. Albert was always willing to take a load of fans in his big boat. This was the real way to travel until a near disaster when the boat hit a dead head and punctured a hole in it. Then the avid fans decided that travel by land, though much harder, was at least safer and much drier.

The Nadeaus house being located where it is, was used as a stop-over for the "Big Bus" when the hill proved impassable. The passengers would disembark and get something to eat and rest while Willie and Albert would hook up the horses to the bus and pull it up the hill.

This home also served as a church for those of the Roman Catholic faith in the area. The first priest was Father Harrison and then Father Murphey. They were stationed at Winfield.

The three older children, Olive, Marie and Armand attended Cree Valley School, a two mile hike through the bush from home. Their teachers were: Mrs. C. Freeman, Miss Ecklund (Mrs. White), Miss Paulson, then Miss Papineau (Mrs. Wyman Fullerton), Miss Spencer, Miss Dorothy Bean and Miss Sopie Curtain.

Frances and Bernadine attended school in Edmonton for the first five years of their education and then they finished at Lakedell School.

Charles Freemans had one of the first phonographs in the area and this was carefully packed in the sled to many house parties. Everyone else brought their favorite records for dancing. Charlie Felling of Wetaskiwin (one man band) played mouth organ, banjo and drums. He played for a lot of the Cree Valley School dances.

ELMER NELSON

Elmer and Marion Nelson farmed the N $\frac{1}{2}$ 12-46-5-5, formerly owned by Hilding and Alice Swanson. Elmer also worked for many years at Carroll Bros. planer mill in Winfield. Their family of four children were all born here. They are Vernon, Rodney, Wayne and Dennis. After selling the farm, they moved to Campbell River, B. C.



Left to right: Marion Nelson, Elmer Nelson, Wayne, Rodney and Vernon Nelson.

GILBERT NELSON

We moved to the Pendryl district in the year 1925 from the Meadowbrook district, about 15 miles east of Gull Lake. At that time, there was our Dad, Mom and six children, Meranda, Elmer, Alice, Bill, Grace, and Willard. We moved at the end of June when school was out.



Gilbert and Bessie Nelson

Earlier that year our Dad, Meranda, Grace, and a friend of Dad's Bill Bryson, had been here and filed on their homesteads. Dad's was SE 7 - 46 - 4 - 5. Bill Bryson's was next to Dad's on the west. Dad built a little log house at that time which was about 12' x 12'.

When we moved we had a hay rack with a load of furniture, wagon full of grain for the horses, buggy and team, and about 15 head of cattle. Meranda and Elmer rode horse back to herd the cattle. Some of them were milking and the flies and mosquitoes were really bad on the trip. We arrived at our little homestead house on the third day. I thought it was the end of the world.

There wasn't room for all of us to sleep in the little house. Meranda and I slept in a tent and the boys slept in a wagon box with a binder canvas on top. One morning there was about 6 or 8 inches of snow on our tent and the weather turned colder and somehow we all had to move into the

little house to sleep. Later on that fall we built a bigger log house and a barn. One of the reasons our Dad liked this homestead was the fact that it had a good spring.

We had a lot of hardships those first few years. Quite a few cattle were lost. They ran into some weed or something. They would bloat and if they weren't found in time, they soon died. We also lost a lot of horses mostly with swamp fever. Dad had a nice team he had brought from the U.S.A. and we lost them too. I remember one year Dad ploughed with 3 horses and a bull. Low and behold this setup worked really well.

Dad was quite the horse trader. I remember one time, he had traded a horse to Mr. Ben Stady which was supposed to be sound on all four legs. I had taken the horse to Stady's and he asked me which leg the horse limped on. I told him I wasn't sure but I thought it was one of the hind legs. Mr. Stady never let me forget that.

When we first came here, the first post office was on the quarter where Jim Willows lives now. The post master at that time was Harold Weaver.

We went to Fendryl school in August and the teacher's name was Miss Smithson. She boarded with Ben Stady and his wife. They lived not too far from Fendryl school. There was a store at that time at Fendryl run by Mrs. Sam Weaver.

There was also a store at Winfield located near the trestle. It was run by Mr. Gibbons. I cannot remember the prices of too many items. We used to buy coffee in the bean which sold for 3 pounds for \$1.00. One hundred pounds of flour cost us \$2.50 or \$2.60.

Those first few years it rained all summer and there was a lot of of frost. It was impossible to raise a garden or feed for the live stock.

Our nearest neighbours were the Adams family, the Willows family and Mr. and Mrs. George Dewar and Harry. During the next few years there was more families moving in. There used to be pie socials, basket socials, masquerade dances and in the winter we used to have sleigh ride parties and at the school there was a Christmas tree and

treats for the kids from Santa.

Our form of transportation in the summer was by horse back and in the winter we used a team and sleigh.

During the next few years we had an addition to the family. Norman was born in September 1927. The district nurse at that time was Miss Plumley. Clarice was born December 26, 1929. The nurse at that time was Miss Fleming. Our Mother was very ill after Clarice was born. She was in bed until nearly spring. She had blood poison in both of her legs. Ingrid was born September 24, 1934. Miss Conroy was the nurse at that time and for many years to follow.

I could write on and on but I think this just about covers the first few years. With my sister Meranda's help we were able to come up with this report.

Alice Swanson

Meranda Bodenham

REV. J. M. NELSON FAMILY

Esther Fullerton, (then Esther Nelson), arrived in the Westeros district in 1904 with her father, Rev. James M. Nelson, and her brother, Jimmy. They moved here from the Brightview district and previous to that they came from Windon, Minnesota, U.S.A. Mrs. Nelson passed away while they lived at Brightview. They built a log house on the homestead which is about one mile west of the Lakedell school on the south side of the road. Rev. Nelson was a Baptist minister and Mom thinks his main purpose in homesteading in the area was to carry on missionary work. He began at once to conduct services in homes of other settlers and was the first minister at the church at Battle Lake when it was built. He died in 1936 at the age of eighty-five and lived alone on his place right to the end of his life. Early neighbours were Woods, Axel Norstroms and Nilssons.

Mom says that they had a stopping house and that she thinks Axel Norstroms had the first one in the area.

Travel was slow due to lack of roads or very poor at the best. Horses were used of course. The timber was thick and tall and after such hard work of clearing small patches of land by hand, a few crops were grown. Seeding was done by hand and crops cut with a scythe. Water supply was obtained from springs, rain water and snow. A well was dug later but not sure of year.

Mom says she can't remember prices except selling eggs for three cents a dozen. They got supplies from Wetaskiwin or Woods store at Westeros mostly.

Winters were severe - lots of snow, blizzards, etc. There was a constant threat of forest fires in summer. Entertainment was scarce but everyone enjoyed church socials.

Comparing life then and now. Well Mom says for all the hardships and hard work, your neighbours were true friends and most everyone pulled together.

There were nine children in the Nelson family. Esther is the only one living and she is at present a patient at Bethany Hospital in Calgary. One sister, Rebecca, came to Westeros later and was the first teacher at South Pigeon Lake school (at old location across from Lakedell) at the age of sixteen. She later married Kenneth Heacock, the son of early Battle Lake residents. Esther married Walter B. Fullerton, who came from Nova Scotia, and moved to Battle Lake in 1911. They built a two storey frame house on a hill at the east end of Battle Lake. The land had previously been held by Fred Papineau. Walter and his brother-in-law, Carmen Fawcett owned and operated the Fullerton-Fawcett Lumber Co. on the shores of Battle Lake. Logs were floated down the lake after being cut and skidded into the water from the thick woods on the south side of the lake. Walter Fullerton had the first general store in the area, situated near the mill site. Many years later the mill was burned and Walter turned to mixed farming. He had a team of driving horses and used to make a business trip to Wetaskiwin in four hours. Supplies were brought in from Wetaskiwin on the return trip after hauling lumber out.

Early settlers included Fred Papibunus, Eastmans, A.C. Neaneys, Heacocks - the latter had the first Post Office at the home later occupied by Ken Hunters. Once again, neighbours had to band together for help in many ways. There was more social activity than earlier but it was still centered around family gatherings, church socials and get togethers with neighbours.

Esther and Walter Fullerton had four children. Phylis, who passed away in 1948, Jean (now Mrs. E. Ast of R.R. 2, Tofield), Burgess (of Olds) and Doreen (Mrs. J. R. Crawford, R.R. 2, Calgary). They were all raised at Battle Lake and attended Cree Valley School. The very first school in the district was held in the Battle Lake church with only three pupils. Walter farmed three quarter sections later after the mill was destroyed by fire and the depression hit the country. Crops were hay and grain, for their own use as more livestock was acquired.

Fullertons lived at the farm until about 1944, then moved to Edmonton. Walter passed away in 1950.



Building of Battle Lake Church, first Church in district. People in this picture include - Mrs. A. C. Bunney, Madge Bunney, Mrs. Ken Hunter, Mr. and Mrs. Eastman, Mr. and Mrs. Lewis. Mr. and Mrs. Hamit and Rev. J. M. Nelson.

NORMAN NELSON

Norman and Dorothy Nelson farmed the S¹ 7-46-4-5. They have four children, Valerie, Richard, Nowell and Karen. They are making their home at Hinton, Alberta.

MR. SANFORD NELSON

Mr. Sanford Nelson came into the district in 1907. He operated a sawmill, in these early days, and cut and sawed lumber for a dam that was to have been built on the North Saskatchewan River. The dam construction project fell through, and the logs were sent down the river to Edmonton.

Mr. Nelson was the first mail carrier in the district in 1911. He carried the mail from Yeoford to Buck Lake. He bought a motor for a boat from the States, and would take the mail via packhorse to the Lake, and then by motor boat to Minnehik.

He lived on his farm about eight miles from Winfield, and looked after some cabins at Ma-Me-o Beach in the summer. He also operated in later years the picture show at Breton

on the weekends. He passed away in 1962.

NESLUND'S

In the early 1900's, the Neslund brothers came to Yeoford. Albert Neslund was married and lived on the NE 26-46-3-5. They later moved to Falun. Pete, a bachelor, lived in a dugout before he built a log house on the NW 25-46-3-5. Then he built a frame house and his mother lived with him. He sold the land to Ivo Bunney and family.

WALTER NEWMAN

The very first time I went to Buck Lake-Winfield area, was in the hungry thirties. We used to go there by horses and wagon from Hobbema because my brothers Otto, Ed and Albert had a homestead south of Buck Lake. However, they dropped the homestead and so I didn't go back there till the winter of 1948 to try my luck at some logging.



Walter Newman, Stan Lind & Tony Klien after bulldozing out a bear.

My first job was with Dan Haley who ran a saw mill. It was there I met Leonard Thronson and the next spring, 1949, I started work for him operating a cat, clearing land. In the fall of 1949, I went back to the bush work again, working for Nubbs Becker skidding logs for the mill.

In the spring of 1950, I went back to work for Leonard Thronson who had now bought a new gravel truck, hauling gravel for roads and filling in around Buck Lake Hotel.

In the fall of 1950 I returned to work in the bush working for Fred Engstrom as a cat skinner south of Pendryl. The spring of 1951 I left and except for the odd fishing trip, I haven't been back. Ponoka is my home town.

MRS. CLISTIE NICOLLS' STORY

My mother, Clistie Nicolls and father, Edgar Nicolls, were both born in Ontario, were married at Frome, Ontario, June 22, 1904.

In 1910, with their two children, Lavern, 4½ years, and Gladys, 2 years, they moved west to Alberta and took up a homestead, which later was called Nicolls district, about 15 miles north-east of Drumheller. In 1918 Elgin was born at the home place and on May 8, 1921, my father died from appendicitis operation and was laid to rest in Michichi Cemetery. In 1936 she and Elgin moved to Alder Flats where Lavern had a homestead.



Lavern Nicolls starting for homestead at Alder Flats. 200 miles to go.

Mr. and Mrs. Willis Tario brought her and Elgin up in a coupe car with a trailer behind, carrying some of her possessions. They were stuck many times before they finally arrived at Lavern's, ¼ east and 5 miles north of Alder Flats.

Mother bought the Sisson farm which was ½ mile east and ¼ mile north of Alder Flats. She loved flowers and gardening. She also painted on cushions, etc. Many ended up at the bazaars. She was very active in the church work of the Evangelical Covenant church and donated with work and money in the building of that church. She played organ and piano for many years. Her home was a home

for many a preacher. I recall her telling of one time, preachers were coming to stay and she had no milk, but the night the pastors came, a milk cow wandered into the barnyard in need of being milked, so she did just that. It stayed for three days, the same length of time the preachers stayed and her owner came and took her home.

She started the first Womens Mission Circle which later was dissolved and the Covenant Womens Auxillary formed. Many a bazaar and quilting bee were held in the homes with much fellowship. They went by wagon in the summer and got stuck and had to walk across the swampy places while the horses waded through up to their tummies. In winter, they went by sleigh and had many a good time at each others homes.

When Elgin married Frances Fye, mother gave him the farm and he built her a little home between their house and ours where she lived for several years. She then moved to a small teacherage in the school yard beside the teacherage Bert and I lived in for two years.

In 1964, we moved to Wetaskiwin where Mother passed away in April 1967 at the age of 88 years. She was buried in Alder Flats cemetery.

Gladys Proudley.

LAVERNE NICOLLS STORY

Laverne was born in January, 1906 at St. Thomas, Ontario and came to Alberta with his folks in 1910 where he lived until 1931 when he moved to Alder Flats and took himself a homestead, $\frac{1}{4}$ mile east and 5 miles north of Alder Flats. There he built a log cabin. He spent many hours of his spare time playing the piano. He also played the banjo, mandolin for many gatherings in the community. He was also active in many other community affairs. Laverne helped build the West Point school house which was made out of hand squared logs. Allan Damant, Mr. Sisson and Laverne had a shake (thick shingle) mill, which they made shingles for the Covenant Mission Church and also many of the other houses of the community.



Laverne Nicolls Homestead Cabin
L. to R.: Elgin Nicolls, Mae Tario,
Jim Morrow, Mrs. Clistie Nicolls,
Laverne Nicolls, Willis Tario.
Taken the day mother & Elgin
arrived at Alder Flats.

He and myself (Lavina Lee) were married on November 20, 1938. Laverne then built a much bigger log house, in which Bernice was born in 1940. Blankets covered the windows to keep out the cold before he got the glass in. At that time we were boarding the teacher from West Point school, who was very fond of gardening. Our garden was covered with lovely flowers. One year he sold a wagon box full of vegetable marrow to the saw mill. He also enjoyed picking fruit which was plentiful at that time. We also boarded three other teachers as well.

In 1943, Laverne passed away after an appendix operation and was buried in the Alder Flats Cemetery on Bernice's third birthday, September 3. Then Bernice and I moved to Leedale after Laverne died and Frank was born a few months later. We sold the homestead to Mr. Turner and bought a house in Leedale.

Bernice is now a missionary in Amman, Jordan. Frank's wife Karen, and baby, Carney, $1\frac{1}{2}$ years old, live in Drayton Valley where he is an electrician. I am residing in Wetaskiwin.

Lavina Nicolls.

NICHOLSON

It was in the summer of 1919 that my parents, Dan and Isobel Nicholson moved from Trail, B. C. to a farm in the Wenham Valley district. I was three years old and my sister Margaret, was 18 months. The location of the farm was the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ 10-47-3-5. While building the house, my parents made their home at Pete Campbells farm, (my mother's brother) and the present owner being Gus Emberg, one mile east of the present Yeoford Store. The road at that time went in a north westerly direction from my uncle's farm, across section one and partially across section eleven, and on past where our house was. It was just a wagon trail through the bush and the creek beds were filled with logs for a crossing, as was the low, wet places. I always remember those old trails so well as we used to visit Bob Able family who lived about seven miles east of our farm. I and my sister, Margaret, used to play with the three Able girls and we were quite down hearted when they moved to Brockville, Ont. about 1921.

Our district of Wenham Valley was named after Mark Wenham who came to that area about 1905 or 1908. They lived on a farm about three quarters of a mile south of our house. Two of their boys died of diphtheria when they were about ten years old and they are buried in a well marked grave right on the farm. The rest of the family moved to Winnipeg about 1927.

My earliest recollections of living in that area is about the time I started school, Sept. 1923. The teacher was a Mr. Beckett who lived with his wife on the Bill Jones farm, the next quarter west of our farm, now owned by Albert and Florence Wiesner. Some of the pupils going to school then were, Leona Gillies, Dugald and Donald Gillies, Francis and Jack Roulston, Janice and Lou Bunney, Katheryn and John Wheale, Clifford and Rene Eaton, Bill, Len, and Lily Wenham, Louise and Ellen Snell, Edith and Willah Jones, and, of course, my sister Margaret. Sorry if I have missed a few names.

My earlier teachers were Fred McNaughton from Sexsmith, Alta. He boarded at our place for the year he taught. We used to charge only fifteen to twenty dollars per month for

room and board and washing. I believe their wages were only around sixty dollars per month. During this term I recall getting the strap almost every day. If you didn't know what nine and seven were, out would come the strap. It seemed that every time I would get a strapping, my chum Don Gillies would be in line for one, too. I'm sure that we weren't that bad in school.

My next teacher was Phyllis Fear, my grade three teacher. She also boarded at our place. She was a nineteen year old girl from Penhold, Alta. out to teach for the first time. It took her two days to come from Wetaskiwin to our place, mostly by team and wagon. It rained most of the day and she and the stage driver had to spend the night at Westeros, where there was a stopping place. I remember so well, running to open the gate to our yard when Dad and she arrived in the democrat. I had the happy occasion of meeting her again at their farm south east of Penhold in 1965. She is now a Mrs. Ed McAllister and it was our first meeting in 38 years.

I cannot recall who the next teachers were but there was Miss Gusse Goodhand who lived in the Wenham Valley district. Also Miss Nora Shenfield, now Mrs. Hugh Impey of Breton, Alta. Miss Virginia Mendenhall, Miss Annie Patton, a Mr. Edgett and , for the last three years that I attended school, the teacher was Glen Carmicheal. He boarded at our place for the three years that he was there. I must add that Glen and I still keep in touch with one another and he is a great guy. He and his wife have taught at Medley, Alta. the last few years and are retiring at the end of this term, June 1971.

In those days I had to work very hard on the farm. The last year I went to school I missed the months of September and October as I had to help with the harvesting. When spring rolled around I had to leave school about the tenth of April, only six days before my sixteenth birthday to help pick roots on thirty-six acres of breaking. Dad had got this breaking done the summer before by Charlie Freeman from the Battle Lake district. He had a Hart-Parr tractor driven by an Ami Dragoon. The price per acre for the breaking was five dollars. In order to pay for the breaking, Dad borrowed a hundred dollars from a bank in Wetaskiwin. For security he had to sign over the title to the farm, a lien on all the machinery, six horses, all the cattle and pigs. He had a terrible time paying off this loan as each three months the bank would add interest (only 2 or 3%) but still it did add up. We would get \$1.85 for a five gallon can of special grade cream, from \$3.00 to \$3.85 for a market pig and beef was only two and three cents per pound, dressed. We used to butcher steers, deliver the meat to D. R. Faser Lumber Co., Ross and Beard or Anthony Lumber and sometimes take half the value of the meat in first grade, dressed lumber at \$15.00 per thousand. We couldn't sell potatoes at all for 25¢ a bushel.

I remember when I got my first pair of men's shoes, size 6. My parents had the Eaton and Simpson catalogues out each night for weeks, trying to decide whether to get me the \$1.25 or the \$1.85 pair. They knew that the more expensive pair would be a much better shoe, but where were they to get the extra 60¢.

Radios made their first appearance for us when Mr. and Mrs. Frank Jones got one. They lived on the place that was later to become the home of the Rathgebers. I remember our family going by team and sleigh one evening to listen to this radio. It was a wooden box affair about eight inches square by twenty inches long with several dials, etc. It was a deluxe model as two people could listen on ear phones at the same time. We, ourselves, got our first about 1932 or 1933. My Uncle Jack Campbell, while working in Atlin, B.C., ordered it from Eatons for us. It was an R.C.A. mantle model (which I still have) and operated on three 45 volt "B" batteries, a 22½ volt "C" and a 2 volt "A". We could squeeze 4 to 6 months out of a set of batteries. It was always a sad affair when the batteries got low as there was no money for a new set.

The earliest cars I recall was a Model T touring car owned by Ilo Bunney, about a 1925 model (which was first owned by J.P. Nowell), the curtains buttoned on the windows; they later purchased their first glass enclosed car from Lars Larson. Also a touring car, a model T, owned by Tom Heldal. Then there was another model T, high topped coupe, about a 1925, owned by Albert Darrow. In 1930, J.P. Nowell, who owned and operated Yeoford Store, 2½ miles southeast of it's present site, got his second car, a brand new Ford sedan. He was so proud of this new car and told me while showing it to me, that he thought cars had advanced as far as they possibly could. I agreed with him as I could think of no improvement that could be made. It was a real smart looking car. Of course, Ford has made many improvements since those days.

As cars appeared on the scene, so the roads slowly improved. Roads were first graded by the farmers putting on 4 to 6 horses on a small seven foot grader. In 1928, the municipal district of Columbia #460, bought a Thirty Cat and a 12 foot blade grader. This "huge" machine could really grade up a few miles of road in a hurry. The operators were

Willie Bachand on the tractor and Albert Nadeau on the grader, two very good operators.

I have a copy of the financial statement of the Municipal District of Columbia #460 for the years 1927, 1929 and 1930. I will quote a few items. The sect. -treas. was W. A. (Bill) Jones with a salary of \$950.53 per year. The councillors for the year 1927 were as follows: Div. 1, C. E. Bengstrom; Div. 2, E. Lundstrom; Div. 3, J. A. Johnson; Div. 4, W. B. Fullerton; Div. 5, O. J. Ayers and Div. 6, which covered Twp. 47, R 3, W5, J. Wheale. There were 15 meetings per year it seems and, each councillor was paid \$4.00 for each meeting he attended plus \$4.00 per day for supervision and 10¢ per mile travelled. The yearly salary for the year 1927 was as follows: Div. 1, \$151.29, Div. 2, \$95.00; Div. 3, \$156.00; Div. 4, \$94.00; Div. 5, \$133.90; Div. 6, \$176.40. The amount of money allocated to be spent for road work in '27 per div. (numerically) was \$2,024.45; \$1,243.94; \$1,822.34; \$2,010.14; \$1,710.62; \$1,902.81. The total machinery on hand was 7 graders, 7 fresnos, 4 wheel scrapers, 32 slush scrapers, 9 plows and 4 road drags. Office equipment was 1 safe and 1 adding machine. The total value of all equipment was \$5,240.59. The number of farmers in the municipal district was 200 and the total population 550. Other interesting figures are, the audit fee, \$85.00; election expense, \$74.00; postage, \$37.77; rent, \$26.00; repairs to machinery, \$566.00; payments to school districts, \$4,063.19. In the receipts column they list \$1,814.35 as in the bank, \$41.24 cash on hand. Taxes came to \$10,881.15; public works grant, \$3,072.40; sale of logs, \$23.50; school taxes, \$5,961.76. The districts total assets amounted to \$43,224.33. The estimates for operating the schools for that year was Richmond, #1831, \$700.00; Lonesome Pine #3346, \$414.46; South Pigeon Lake #1601, \$900.00; Riverview #1566, \$124.54; Harmonien #3639 and Pineville #2948, no amount given; Seattle #2761, \$950.00; Cree Calley #1678, \$665.00; Springhill #1451, \$449.31; Fisherton #1859, \$500.00 and Modeste Valley #2956, (my school) \$800.00. Mill rates for schools, 18 mills and for the municipal district was 19 mills.

In the year 1929 the councillors were starting with Div. one, C. E. Bengstrom, J. Mann, E. Johnson, W. B. Fullerton, A. Gilbert and F. Fowler. One tractor and one grader had been added to the machinery list and the value of the machinery was up to \$10,127.59. The cat and grader they purchased must have cost in the neighbourhood of \$5,000.00. The total assets were \$43,167.48.

In the year 1930, the councillors were, starting with Div. one, C. E. Bengstrom, J. Mann, E. Johnson, W. B. Fullerton, A. Gilbert and D. Nicholson. Each councillor was paid for that year, starting with Div. one, \$147.60, \$146.20, \$170.80, \$146.70, \$136.50 and \$138.00. The total assets had dropped to \$39,858.93. The sect. -treas. salary was \$1,000.00. The number of resident farmers was 220 and the total population was 600. The Fern Creek school #4348 was added to the list of schools and the cost of operating it for the year was set at \$469.09. It was shortly after this that the Municipal district went broke and was turned into an improvement district administered by the Provincial Government.

Some time around 1928, I'm not at all sure of the year, the railroad was built from Lacombe to Leduc, through Bentley, Rimbey, Winfield, Breton, etc. The towns of Winfield, Norbuck, Breton, Warburg came to life and the whole economy of the country was much improved, especially lumbering and farming. Previous to the railroad, the mail for the Wenham Valley and Keystone Post Offices was handled through the Yeoford Post Office. Keystone was in the now Breton area. The mail for Knob Hill, Pendryl and Buck Lake area was also handled through Yeoford. Once a week a Raleigh Ramsey from the Keystone District would make the trip to Yeoford via the Wenham Valley Post Office picking up and delivering the mail. Many times he would be caught in mud or deep snow and his team would play out. On these kinds of trips he stayed many nights at our place, continuing on the next day. The Wenham Valley Office in those days was at the Bill Jones Farm, the next quarter west of our place. Around 1930, with the railroad operating and the towns of Winfield and Breton booming, the mail was then handled for our district through the Winfield Post Office, taking in the Knob Hill Office on the way. We were given twice weekly service also. I believe it was first hauled by the Jap Bunney family, then Wes Mason, Art Norman, Eugene Lachance and myself. About this time the Office was moved to our place. We cleaned out the top part of an old kitchen cabinet and that's where the Office was operated from, right in our kitchen. It was open any-time of the day or night, seven-days per week. We were given \$100.00 per year to run it plus 1¢ for each Postal Note we sold. We were to keep \$5.00 worth of assorted stamps and \$100.00 worth of assorted Postal Notes. We had to cheat a bit by putting in \$50.00 worth of our own money in order to keep a better variety. If we sold an \$8.00 Postal Note, we had to give say, a five and a three, so we were then out of fives and threes. If someone else wanted an \$8.00 note we would have to maybe sell him a \$10.00 one and hope that he would get his change back from Eatons or the Army and Navy, where most of the orders went. One day the Post Office

Inspector dropped in and here we had about \$10.00 worth of stamps and \$160.00 worth of Postal Notes. He was quite put out about it, and told us, we were not to do such things.

We finally had an addition built onto our house and were able to have a small grocery store in connection with the Post Office and were able to give better service to our customers. When we first completed this addition to the house, we had a bang up opening dance. The music was supplied by the Fiveland Brothers, who I believe lived in the Westeros area. The place was packed and dancing went on till the wee small hours of the morning. The ladies brought cakes and sandwiches those days so there was oceans of food. In those early days, everyone in the district would open their home for a Sat. night dance. The dances would go from one home to the next as the weekends came around. The ladies would all bring lunch and there was plenty for all. The furniture in some cases was piled out in the snow and the dance went on. If the stove wasn't required for making coffee, then it went out the door also. Two of the dances I recall the most was one at the Bill Jones old house, before they built the new one. My father and Mrs. Frank Jones were dancing a Schottish and they both went through the floor. The other was at the Frank Fowler home. I happened to get caught under the Mistletoe and first thing I knew I had been kissed by Mrs. Fowler. This to a young bashful boy like me was very embarrassing.

Then the Knob Community Hall was built. This then became the centre for dances, fairs and picnics. Here again the ladies brought the sandwiches and the cakes and there was always some left over. For the dances, the coffee was always made by Alfred Stone, brewed to perfection in a copper wash boiler. One glance out the kitchen door and he knew exactly how much he required for the size of the crowd. Several of us boys always passed around the tin plates and tin cups, spoons, etc. at supper time. I usually got a big two gallon coffee pot to pour out the coffee, cup after cup, followed by others with the cream, sugar, sandwiches and cake. This was repeated till everyone had enough, then the dishes were gathered.

During the late '30s and early '40s there were many dances held in the Wenham Valley School. These dances, as well as dances held at the Fern Creek School and the Knob Hill Hall, replaced the old familiar house parties. Then the dance halls at Winfield and Breton took over most dances.

In the late '20's and early '30's, there were quite a number of new residents moved into the district. To name a few, Mr. and Mrs. Wold and the three boys, Elvin, Roy and Erling, coming from the Hespero, Alta. area. They settled on the old original Eaton place. Mr. and Mrs. Jack Reid and their family, John, Clarence, Walter, Mary and Alma, from, I believe, the Daysland area. They settled on the old original Lashway place, later to be taken over by the Fred Hamel family from Leader, Sask. The family included Blanche and Leah, (twins), Ida (now Mrs. Albin Hustad of Dawson Creek, B. C.), Alex of Dawson Creek who married Louise Nadeau of Winfield, Louis, now of Chilliwack, B. C., Mae, now a Sister with the Providence Order of Edmonton, Ernie, who passed away in 1959, Alma, now Mrs. Morris Godbout of Quebec City, Edward, now a Father, Ed Hamel of Edmonton and Larry, now of Chilliwack. Oh, by the way, I married one of the twins, Blanche, on June 22, 1946; which incidently was twenty-five years ago yesterday, as I type these lines. The other twin, Leah, is still single and lives with her mother here in Dawson Creek. The next owner of this original Lashway place was Eugene Lachance. The Walter Baynes family came to the area too, with children, Nellie, Joe and Mary. Mrs. Baynes for years served as a district nurse and helped out many early pioneers in times of sickness. Walter, as Mr. Baynes was known to all, still lives in the town of Breton. The Tom Bolt family moved in and built a house about one and a half miles north of our place. This place was later taken over by Mr. and Mrs. Norman Atkinson.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Fowler and son, Edward (Ted), came from Sask. They settled on the old Gamble place, just west of where Ida Bowman lives today. Mr. and Mrs. Art Norman and family moved to our district and settled on the old Doc. Covey place. Here, I must mention that Doc. Covey was one of the real old timers. He lived in a dugout in the bank of the Modeste Creek about a mile south of where the school was. One night during a real heavy rain, the creek came up so high that he was almost drowned before he could get out. He built his own coffin and kept it under his bunk for several years. He was buried in this coffin in the Knob Hill cemetery after his death.

The Impey family came from South Africa in the '20s, the Rathgeber family settling on the old Frank Jones place, the George Shave family, coming from Leduc, Carl Edler coming from Seven Persons, Alta., the Gene Seeley family, the Charlie Hunter and Tom Hunter families, the Bob Hill family, the Victor Hanson family, the Ing family, the Wes Mason family, the Zarowski family, the Joe Bells, Oscar Bucher, Don Belsham, Bill Elliott. Sorry if I have missed any names.

Previous to the foregoing, coming to the district, the already permanent old timers were the Archie Gillies family, the Mark Wenham family, the Goodhands, the John Wheale family, Harry and Lily Asher, the John Green family, Tom Heldal, Archie and Tom Elliot (can't remember the other brothers name), a friend to all, known as Uncle Ed (Elliot), the Skoglunds, the Penleys, the DeWitts, Roy McLeod, Joe Myers, Enoch and Nat Johnson, John Johnson, the Stones, the MacLaughlins, the A. C. Bunney families - Ilo, Ivo and Jasper, the Miltons, Pete Campbell, John Robertson, the Snell families, Ward, Ed and Charlie, George and Ed Mauer, Mr. and Mrs. William Murfitt and sons Mirt and Herby, Eric Norlin, Freberg brothers, J. P. Nowells, Ed Young, Slim Anderson, the Ginther and Ellingson families, Mervin (Slim) Johnson, Mrs. Emma Baker and her son Douglas - she treated us to little small cinnamon rolls, she called them cat tracks, whenever we stopped in to see her. Of course, these cinnamon rolls didn't compare with the nice big ones that Lue and Art Bunney used to bring to school and some of us would trade half our lunch for one. Here again I must apologize for any names omitted.

Leaving the country before my parents arrived were the Peterson and Harder and Carnaigie families. The buildings on their farms stood for many years till finally being destroyed by fire. The roofs of these buildings were covered by home made shakes. The farm south of our place, where my Grandfather Malcolm Campbell, moved to, about 1920, had a long narrow building on it. The roof of this building was a layer of poles, a layer of moss, a layer of poles and then about a foot of dirt covered by another layer of poles. The people lived in the middle section, the horse and cow barn on one side, the pigpen on the other side and then the henhouse was at the east end of the building. It was all under the one roof and the livestock were a big help in keeping the whole building warm in winter. The ceiling and walls of the human living quarters were lined with burlap. This building just rotted away in the late '30s. A wagon road went by the front door and went on N. W. through the Bill Jones place, coming out on the present road south of the Jap Bunney house. From there it went along the south side of the present Bowman farm, across the old Gamble place, the "Uncle Ed" place, the Bob Hill farm, (now Gunner Hanson) across the Nels Hanson quarter, the Ringborg farm and the Flesher farm. I have some remembrance of travelling, in part at least, of this long trail through the bush. As in all cases the creek beds were filled with logs as were the low wet places.

In the summer of 1932, I went with Everette Dau, who lived on the old Wes Mason quarter, the NE 2-47-3-5, to Three Hills, Alta. to help him bring back a threshing machine. It was an old 12-27 Twin City tractor, 1927 model and a wooden 22-36 Goodison separator. We removed the angle iron type lugs off the tractor and pulled the separator through the Torrington, Innisfail, Sylvan Lake, Bentley, Rimbey, Hoadley and Winfield area. I remember the evening we were in Innisfail, a freight train came from the south and there must have been 300 men riding the boxcars. We travelled from daylight till after dark, sleeping out under the stars. Slot machines were in all the cafes those days and while in Bentley, Everette tried a nickle and hit the jackpot of \$6.50. The next spring Dad bought this threshing outfit for \$500.00. That same fall, when I was only seventeen, I was out threshing for all the farmers in the Wenham Valley, Knob Hill, Winfield, Norbuck, Yeoford and Fisher Home areas. This was to go on for the next 12 to 13 years when other rigs made their appearance.

That first fall of threshing went well, I thought, until we were threshing at the Nat Johnson farm south of Skoglunds. Just all of a sudden the tractor started acting up and finally quit altogether. No one knew anything about a motor like that, but Albert Penley figured it must be out of time. No one really knew what that meant and no one knew how to correct it, I cranked that thing for over two days and did I ever have blisters on my hands. Dad finally arranged with Vern Grover to put his Model D John Deere on. Even if this tractor had only two cylinders, Vern and I could sure thresh grain. I don't recall how or when we got our old Twin City going again, but in the next couple of years that we used it, I could "time" it, blindfolded, I'm sure. It was forever going out of time. One fall we threshed for 42 days straight, Sundays and all. For the first couple of years we charged 2¢ for wheat, 1½¢ for barley and 1¢ for oats. We gave 10% off the total bill if paid within the one month, and we lost only one or two bills in all the years we threshed. We charged a minimum of \$5.50 for a setting and for some, that was all it cost them. One day we threshed for about 12 different farmers. It was on the Lysing place, a mile or two east of Winfield. Most of the twelve farmers came from the Town Lake area. Some had two or three loads of bundles, and some had only a small load. This little bit of grain, though, meant so much to each one. I remember Lars Larson coming with me early one morning to stand on the front end of the old 1928 Model D John Deere, while we went up a couple of steep hills on a trail through the bush, which came out from the south, to the Seattle School corner.

One Dec. we put skids under the back end of the separator, so we could move in the snow, and we threshed for several days in the Norbuck area. While threshing on the Martin farm, rented that year by Ted Chapin, I had to drain the water and oil out of the John Deere at the end of the day, as it was so cold. We all had to go to Ted's place for supper, a distance of three miles or so. On the way we stopped at Duncan's store and it was 42 below. Took about two hours next morning to get things rolling, after putting boiling water in the radiator and almost boiling oil in the crankcase. That same winter we threshed on the Mockerman farm south of Anthony's mill. Orde Mockerman and Earl McNeil each put a team on front of the tractor to get up the steep hill out of the valley. I could have shut the tractor off altogether, as those four horses, with those good skidders could have pulled two rigs up that hill. One fall Colin Gillies and I went several miles west of the D. R. Fraser mill, to thresh for John Bilyk, the Khanda family and Andrew Zurawel. We sold the old separator that trip to John Bilyk and imagine its last days were spent in that part of the country.

In all these years of threshing, each neighbour helped the next neighbour in his district, and there was no thought of wages. The best part of the threshing in those days was the food. To a young fellow like me, with an appetite like a horse, it was wonderful. I recall an afternoon lunch at C. B. MacLaughlins. We had home made donuts and coffee. I ended up having three cups of coffee and thirteen of those delicious donuts.

Previous to Everette Dau bringing in this threshing machine, the threshing was done one or two years by Dick Impey and Wallace MacLaughlin. Previous to this, Art Westling ran a rig, I believe, owned by Martin Oaker of Breton. Martin Oaker himself threshed throughout the whole country for years. In cold weather he would burn many forkfuls of straw in the mornings to warm up the little Fordson tractor he had. Before his time, Ward and Ed Snell used to thresh through the whole country. They had a stationary engine on skids and a Stanley-Jones separator that looked more like a large fanning mill. One man stood in front of the cylinder, would cut the twine on the bundle, put half the bundle through the cylinder and then the next half. The straw fell out the back of the machine to be piled by men with pitchforks. The grain came out at the bottom and to one side of the machine where it was put in sacks by hand and carried away. It took a big crew to do all this work so threshing day was always a big day. The one cylinder engine that ran the machine had two big flywheels and only one puff or pop every few seconds. To get it going on cold mornings a long rope was wound around the pulley and a whipped up team of horses pulling on this rope would spin the engine over. With several tries it usually started. Both the engine and the separator was moved from place to place with horses.

For grain grinding in the early days, we had a horse power outfit. It consisted of a heavy circular casting with gears fastened to a framework which was staked to the ground. A pole about twelve feet long at right angle was fastened to the top big gear, and a team of horses pulling on the end of this pole, going around in a circle, turned a set of grinding burrs which ground the grain. It took up to twenty minutes to do a wash tub full of oat chop. Barley and wheat were a bit faster. People came from miles around to grind grain with this rig. They could use it whenever they pleased. This rig also had a gearbox and pulley affair turned by a thirty foot pipe fastened to a sort of a power take off shaft. This part could be used to saw wood, etc. as the horses walked around in circles. After a few years we got an old Maple Leaf, 8" grinder and ran it with an old Model T Ford, hooked to a helping Henry. This Helping Henry was a wooden framework affair with a long shaft with three pulleys on it. The tires of the Model T sat on the two outside pulleys, while a belt went from the third pulley to the grinder or wood saw. This rig could perhaps grind 25 bus. per hour. Cold water had to be poured through the radiator as it boiled all the time. Grinding grain this way was done for any in the neighbourhood who came. After a few years when we had a tractor we were able to get a bigger grinder and, we set aside one day a week when we would grind grain. We would hand pick a couple of grain sacks full of wheat, grind it twice to make it fine and this is what we used for cooked cereal. All farmers those days hauled wheat to Wetaskiwin, to McEachern's mill, and traded it for flour, bran and shorts. It took three long days by team to make the trip with sixty bushels of wheat.

In October 1935, tragedy struck our family when my mother passed away in the Wetaskiwin Hospital. She was very ill at home when Dad decided that she should be taken to a hospital. He rode seven miles on horseback to Victor Hanson's place to have them take her to the hospital. Within a couple of days she passed away. I was 19 at the time, my sister Margaret, 17 and my sister, Christine, was about ten years old. This placed a considerable hardship on my sisters, as the work of running a household fell on them. This all changed in 1946 when I got married and Dad moved to Vancouver that same year, where he passed away

in 1952. By this time I was living here in Dawson Creek, having left the farm in Dec. 1949.

It was an interesting thirty years that I spent on the old farm and I have no regrets to-day. I still enjoy very much going back for visits. One of the greatest drawbacks we had on the farm was hauling water for 18 years. It wasn't till 1937 that we had John Rauchert from Winfield, drill a well for us. He got lots of good water at 80 feet and here we had hauled it 600 yards for 18 years.

I could go on and on, but, I'm sure my story must be long enough. I would like to add a few lines though, about my own family, of which Blanche and I are very proud. Our oldest daughter, Vickie, is now Mrs. Laverne Lessoway and lives in Calgary. She married a boy from Grande Prairie, who she met during her school days. She is an X-Ray Technician at the Colonel Belcher hospital, while her husband goes to University. Donna, our second daughter, is training in X-Ray at the General Hospital in Edmonton. She will be through with her training this coming November. Our son Blaine is at home here with us. He works for a Bell Radio and T. V. here in the city.

Malcolm A. Nicholson.

NORBUCK

Nor buck, in early sawmill days, was a real little town and quite a large settlement of mill workers, store, P.O. and garage and bee business. The C.P.R. was their main outlet and this area, Breton to Winfield, was considered their best paying piece of R.R.

The big fire in 1937 that started at Winfield, went west to the Saskatchewan river and also wiped out eleven Nor buck homes near the mill. Only homes saved were Frank Rath's Jim. Rathiffe;s and Ing bretson;s. Delos Linton stayed under water in the creek but kept throwing pails of water on the Ing bretson home and saved it. However, their furniture piled in a ditch with wet blankets over it burnt up and a house cat in the tub on the centre of the road was cooked to death. A heavy snow fall put the fire out.

To get a road from Winfield to Nor buck all work was volunteer. Frank Brecken and Art Jones cleared a road 2 rods wide from Nor buck to Jones corner. Bert Abbott and Charlie, Fred and Hubert Warner cleared 2 rods wide on to Winfield. Dirt was hauled on the swamp and dumped from the wagons by tipping the bottom boards of the box on edge to let the dirt out.

One fire sweeping the Nor buck area burnt Jimmy Matthews bachelor home and he insisted on going back in to blow out his light even though it burnt a few minutes later. This fire burnt across well worked fields.

There was a tie camp here that shipped bundles out on rail. Also a charcoal factory that logged and shipped charcoal out. They also sold creosote as well as inventory spruce salve which was still prescribed by doctors after Breton Hospital opened.

There were three cafes at Nor buck. The first was a rooming house and cafe owned by Carl Keiser. Margaret Rathgeber worked there. She later married Delos Linton but later divorced. He lives in Edmonton. The second cafe was owned by Frank Rath. The last cafe was owned by Thor gleson's who had a girl, Marion, and one boy.

The picnic grounds were on the corner of McNabb's farm (G. Broks now).
Nelspur R. R. siding was on Art Jones first home, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ 26-46-4-5.

NORBUCK SCHOOL #4551

School was held in Frank Rath's home while they were building Nor buck School. Anthony's, Fraser's and Nelson's sawmills donated lumber. The Government grant was \$20.00, C.P.R., \$15.00. The school was built in 1930 on SW 2-47-4-5 and named after Nor buck R.R. siding. Many dances and concerts were held as well as school. School was held in Frank Rath's home with Miss Pierce teaching until the school was finished.

Some of the teachers were: first teacher, Morgan French, 1935, Miss Olive Code (Mrs. Robbie Burns), Miss Aunischuck (boarded at Fraser's).

Thrife or Price - because Mel Jones and Marvin Burris were always fighting, he made them put on the boxing gloves. One stepped in front of the teacher, was hit by the other and was knocked backward and sent the teacher flying.

Bill Smith - boarded at Ralph Burris'. He married one of his adopted twin sisters and now is farming at Delburn.

Mackleroy from Camrose, boarded at Hastings on SE 1-47-4-5. Miss Lobb stayed at Satcherills.

Miss Micklejon boarded at Weston's. She was last heard of as working in Correspondence School Branch in Edmonton. Mrs. Clennonsmith lived on Norbuck corner.

When the school closed, it was sold for \$1.00 and now serves as a Community Centre.

ARTHUR NORMAN FAMILY by Valdis Johnson

I, Valdis (Mrs. Glen Johnson) will now recall some of my memories. My father and mother, Arthur and Thelma Norman left Forestburg in 1935 when I was nine months old to take up homesteading at Wenham Valley, perhaps because of the depression. One sister, Laurel, and a brother, Curtis, were born while living there.

Our closest neighbours were Jap Bunneys, Heldahls, Rathgebers, and Cambridges. Others a little farther away were Nicholsons, Shepherds, Masons, Bowmans and Skoglunds. I can remember Mrs. Bunney having the mail route, then Mr. Mason. A Mr. Tucker, I believe, was either the Rawleigh or Watkins man. I took grade one at Wenham Valley school. My teacher's name was Miss Elsie Jans. She later married Arthur Bunney now of Forestburg.

My step-grandfather and his brother, Ralph, and Otto Brekken also had a house on our homestead and lived there for many years. When war broke out, my father joined the air-force as a cook, so for the next few years we moved to Guelph, Ont. for a year and then to Edmonton. During this time Clyde and Stuart were born.

We came back to Wenham Valley again but as there was such a shortage of teachers, we returned to Edmonton to continue our schooling. Mrs. Effie Rathgeber, then Effie Bowman, was the supervisor for our correspondence courses. Others attending school there were Rudy and Fred Meyer, Dorothea, Violet, Laura and Eugene Sparrow, Johnny Skoglund, Victor, Wayne, Ernestine, Everett and Chester Jones, Ellen Atkinson and her cousin Peter Jackson.

Our family left Edmonton again and stayed at Wenham Valley while Dad made arrangements to buy the Bill Harrison farm at Knob Hill formerly owned by Burkes. My folks lived there for about ten years then sold to George and Faye Chudik. It was later sold to Vandersteens who still live there.

My mother lives in Edmonton. Laurel is now Mrs. Bob McLachlin and has two children. Curtis and Adele and baby daughter live at Rocky Mountain House. Clyde is just finishing his masters degree in Forestry at the University in Moscow, Idaho. He has been married three years. Stuart married a Warburg girl, Marlene Hyland. They have two small sons and live at Spruce Grove.

Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Norman

We came to the Winfield district in 1935 just as Social Credit was becoming a strong force in the Province of Alberta. Well I remember when Reverend Wingblade, Mr. Unwin and Mr. Ansley would come out and hold meetings in the Wenham Valley and other schools to explain to all, the features of Social Credit.

We came from Forestburg, Alta, where my husband, Art, used to work with the C.N.R. and part time in the busy coal mines there. It was in the beginning years of the "Depression" of the thirties and jobs were getting scarce. Seeing no future with the C.N.R., as men were being laid off all the time, my husband decided to take up a homestead.

It was at that time that two Forestburg boys, Bill Fredericks and Louis Albright, a brother of Mrs. Francis Penley, had gone out to Winfield, so my husband decided to go out there too. He decided that that's where we should go. After seeing the country, I liked it too, the beautiful scenery, the rustic atmosphere, the future it seemed to have and the challenge it presented, appealed to me. And so we came. We just had one child then, our oldest daughter, Valdis.

We located in the Wenham Valley area about eight miles from Winfield, four miles north and four miles east, between Jap Bunney's and Rathgeber's.

There were many problems to overcome in this new country but somehow we made it. Cars and tractors were scarce then in this part of the country. Most farm work was done by horses.

At the time of our arrival, the Wenham Valley post office was in full operation with Mr. Dan Nicholson as Postmaster. Tuesdays and Saturdays the post office was the main center of activity when everyone would wend their way up there to get their mail and have a friendly chat with other neighbours.

Mrs. Jap Bunney (now Mrs. Kindig) hauled the mail then from Wenham Valley to Winfield, picking up mail at Knob Hill on the way. She had done this for many years before

we got there and continued for many years after, until into the war years when they had a sale and moved away. Those succeeding her were Mr. Wes Mason, my husband, Arthur Norman, Eugene Lachance, Mr. Ole Gunderson, Mr. Al Wiesner, and Mr. Morris Zarowski, and Malcolm Nickolson. Finally, both these post offices were closed in the middle fifties. By that time just about everyone had a car and were able to get their own mail.

The rural school was another center of activity in the community in those days in 1935. Such was the Wenham Valley School. It even had two schoolhouses then, one for elementary and one for high school.

By the time we got there, however, the students of the first settlers had graduated and there were not enough to take their place so the high school was closed.

Miss Swanson was the elementary teacher during our first years in the community. She was succeeded by Miss Jean Fullerton, Miss Elsie Jans who later became Mrs. Arthur Bunney, and Miss Isobel Zarowski, who was the last regular teacher in Wenham Valley School.

By 1945, teachers were getting so scarce that the Provincial Government began to allow high school graduates of Grade XI and XII to act as supervisors using correspondence courses for the pupils. Miss Effie Bowman, now Mrs. Bill Rathgeber, acted in this capacity for a year. The school was then closed.

It was at this time that the Provincial Government began to form Divisions and centralize schools so that children in this area were taken to either Winfield or Breton.

We had stayed in the Wenham Valley community until 1941 when my husband joined the R.C.A.F. and we moved to Guelph, Ontario, where he was stationed as cook. We later moved back to Edmonton where he was transferred to Manning Depot.

After the war was over, we continued to live in Edmonton but in 1949 we decided to go back to the farm and settled again in the Winfield district but this time at Knob Hill.

We bought a farm from Mr. and Mrs. Harrison, a farm that we felt had many advantages. First of all, in regard to school, the children in this community were being bussed to a centralized school in Winfield with all the grades right up to grade XII. This meant a lot as three of our children were in the upper grades. Valdis was in Grade X, Laurel in Grade IX, Curtis in Grade VII, Clyde in Grade II and Stuart in Grade I.

I should mention that this farm was located at a crossroad with Grover's north of us, Stone's east of us, and Chinell's kitty-corner from us. Mr. Grover was the school bus driver who, by the way, continued in this capacity for twenty years. We were very happy in this neighbourhood as the children had been wanting to go back to the farm, and we also had very good neighbours here.

Another advantage that I felt was very important was the nearness to church. A flourishing Protestant church, "The Covenant Mission Church" was only a half-mile from us with Reverend Josephson as pastor.

Even when we first came to the Winfield district back in 1935, this same church which we were four miles from then, had much meaning for me and I felt even then that we had come to the right place. Now being only half a mile from it was even better.

I should mention that the minister of this church in 1935 was Reverend John Bergstrom, a graduate of Three Hills Bible School. Following him through the next years were: Reverend Koch, Reverend Shimke, and Reverend Davidson. Many were the happy times the congregation had together through those years, and now we were back there again.

By 1960 our family was pretty well grown up and I went back to teaching again, starting first at Buck Lake. Later we moved to Edmonton where I have been teaching ever since, and my husband, Arthur, has been with the Corp of Commissionairs as security guard at the R.C.A.F. station, now changed to Canadian Forces Base at Namao.

We do, however, intend to retire in the town of Winfield. Our daughter, Valdis, Mrs. Glen Johnson, with her husband and family live there. We have bought a house there, and, as one friend has so fittingly expressed it, "our memories are there."

Mr. Arthur Norman passed away January 19th, 1970. He was born in Roland, Manitoba, and at the age of three was taken to England, returning to Forestburg, Alberta when he was nine where he spent his early life.

Mrs. A. J. Norman.

NORTH YEOFORD SCHOOL

North Yeoford school was built on the NE 29-46-2-5. Some of the teachers were:

1940, Miss Jean Staples, Miss Alva Gimlett, Miss Ella Miller from Lacombe, Mrs. Smith, Charlie Craig. 1942, Miss Isabel Zarowski. 1944, Miss Lenora Howard, Miss Loreen Sutherland.

The school was closed and moved to Lakedell in 1946.

THE NURSES STORY

In the spring of 1923, Miss Brighty was asked by Miss Elizabeth Clark (Director of Public Health Nurses for the Province of Alberta), to go into the Pendryl-Buck Lake area to establish a district nursing centre.

At this time, Pendryl was a completely isolated small district of new settlers, the centre of which was Fendryl store run by the Sam Weavers and the Post Office run by the Harold (Hal) Weavers.

The nearest telephone was at Knob Hill. Some road ways had been surveyed and some brush cut but mostly there was just trails that wound around hill sides and very low spots would have been filled beforehand with brush or corduroy if one expected to pass over same. The last part of the journey from the Bunker stop over to the home of my Dad, Mr. C.B. Long, was made by dark that evening. Her two companions, Miss Clark and Dr. Laidlaw, returned to Knob Hill and Miss Brighty stayed in our home approximately a week then moved to the home of Mr. and Mrs. George Stratton on land west of the first Pendryl Post Office.



Nurse Eve Turner with
her father at Alder Flats
Nurses Cottage

The settlers soon got together and that summer they built a small frame building about sixteen by eighteen that was to be referred to as the "Nurses Cottage" by everyone in the district. It was situated on land, SW corner of Sec. 3-46-5-5, donated by owner Mrs. Sam Weaver who had built a house and store combined just east of it and within calling distance.

This cottage became home over the next twenty-four years for these nurses and, I believe, in this order:

Miss Kate S. Brighty - May 1st, 1923 to September 1927. Later Superintendent of Nurses. Superannuated March 1942.
Miss Maud Plumley - September 1st, 1928 to April 30, 1929. As (Mrs. Delong) relieved in 1932-1933 and in 1942.
Miss Angela Fleming - November 24th, 1929 to July 15, 1930. Married E. J. Irvin of Pendryl.
Miss Mina Phillips - 1931. Resigned to be married to Bill Turnbull.

Miss Fenton - 1931 to 1932.

Miss Amy L. Conroy - 1932. Relieved in office in Edmonton during summer months of 1938-1939. Organizing nurse for Travelling Clinic 1937. Was Matron of Provincial Training School, Red Deer - 1923-1927. Travelling Lecturer 1920-1923 and again from 1927 to 1928.

Miss A. D. Engelcke - relieved in 1935 and again in 1938.

Miss Janet Munroe - relieved in 1937.

Miss Mary J. Plant - relieved in 1938.

Miss P. Chapman - relieved in 1938.

Miss Helen Mary Garfield - relieved January 1939 to March 1940.

Miss Blodwin Cogland - relieved January 1939 to March 1940.

Miss Helen G. McArthur - relieved April 7, 1941 for one month.

Miss Mary H. Willis - relieved in 1943.

Miss Amy Conroy retired September 9th, 1946 after relieving in Lindale and Alder Flats for summer months.

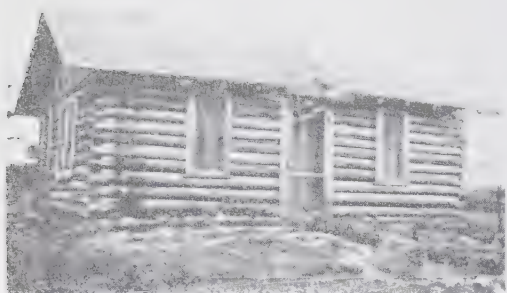
Miss Ford - September 1946 until nursing service at Pendryl was discontinued in April 1947.

The following nurses married bachelors and most remained in the district for some time: Miss M. Plumley - Mr. Dick Delong; Miss Fleming - Mr. Ed Irwin; Miss Phillips - Mr. Wm. Turnbull; Miss Garfield - Mr. Clayton Sabin; Miss Ford - Mr. Alan Damant.

The following is an excerpt from a letter written to me by Mrs. (Brighty) Colley dated October 23rd, 1971: "Yes - I remember the little girl, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Long and your mother, and my stay in your home - Pendryl was my first experience with homesteading life and I cherish the memory of it.

"I am delighted to read in your letter that the women of the Yeoford, Winfield and Pendryl and west areas are compiling a record of those districts and that it will be in the form of a memorial to Miss Conroy.

"Miss Conroy was a much loved member of our Public Health Nursing staff and my personal friendship with her when I was Supt. of Public Health nurses will always be much cherished by me. I think Miss Conroy was the most selfless woman I have ever met. Wherever she went a mark of goodness was left.



Nurses cottage at Alder Flats - built 1934.

"You asked in your letter for some personal experience of my own while in Pendryl.

"This occasion stands out in my mind - A "Call" came for me to go to the Joe Betlamini homestead. I knew what that meant. It was moments to find "Dan" my horse and be off, trying to get to Mrs. B. before the stork arrived.

"Myrtle Foreman, visiting her sister, Mrs. Weaver, accompanied me on their little white mare - splashing through the mud and fording creeks, we arrived in plenty of time. What a charming spot it all was - such order and peace in that little cabin - on a side table, pans of bread dough were rising. By the time the bread came out of the oven a fine baby boy had arrived. Myrtle named him Martin after Italy's Patron Saint.

"I was always glad to have attended one of my first confinement cases in such simple surroundings, and where the homesteader met his obligations with such dignity.

Signed,

"Kate Colley".

These nurses were truly dedicated to their profession. I think a better way of describing them is "Angels of Mercy".

Miss Conroy was "special" as she was here more than fourteen years and became friend, mother, confidant and advisor to everyone in the district. I don't think anyone ever, could quite replace her in all our hearts.



Pendryl Nurses Cottage - the gate that welcomed so many in times of illness and the two spruce trees planted by Mr. Glasel Sr.

She was born in eastern Canada in 1875, graduated from Montreal General Hospital of Nursing School in 1910. During the First World War, she served overseas as a nursing sister. In 1921 she came to Alberta and worked for three years as Supt. at the Red Deer Children's Hospital.

She joined the Provincial Dept. of Health in 1924 and worked until her retirement.

In 1947, she was presented with a life membership in the Canadian Legion - Dominion Command. After retirement in 1951, she made her home in Edmonton. It was a real treat to visit her during those years until her death June 4th, 1965, at the age of eighty-nine.

Winfield Area - Mrs. Nilen came to Winfield in the early 1930's and for some time took care of the Bendick children. She had a nursing home and took care of patients there.

Mrs. Samuel did nursing, ran the rooming house that was later run by the Ryalls and still later by Johnny Fredericksens.

In 1951, through the efforts of the Winfield Legion, a Municipal nursing district was formed. Helen Sabin was first District Nurse and worked out from her home.

In May 1952, the cottage being completed, Mrs. Fadeef was the first occupant staying until December 31st, 1953. Helen Sabin spent the year 1953-1954 nursing in Breton, returning to nurse at Winfield April 12, 1954 and staying until April 30, 1956 when she resigned to take a position in Edmonton.

Then followed Mrs. Leola M. Edwards - July 1, 1956, Miss Doreen Bastable - May 1, 1957 to September 16, 1957, Miss Vera Hrycuik - December 1st, 1957 to July 12, 1958 (married - Mrs. Vera Steen), Miss Doreen Bastable - May 1, 1957 to September 16, 1957 - leave of absence then nursed again from July 1st, 1958 to September 30, 1959. In March 1960, this service was terminated.

Nurses in Yeoford-Battle Lake Area. First nurse that there is any record of was Mrs. Kinsman. She is known to have delivered the first white baby in the district - November 7th, 1908. His name, Lowel Irving Thomas, Dorothy Thomas' baby brother.

On January 29th, 1920, Miss Hall, first registered nurse, moved to the Yeoford area to take up the duties of District Nurse for the Provincial Health Dept. She had charge of the Municipal District of Columbia and the Buck Lake area. She boarded at the home of Ilo

Some well-known public health nurses



Kate Shaw Brighty



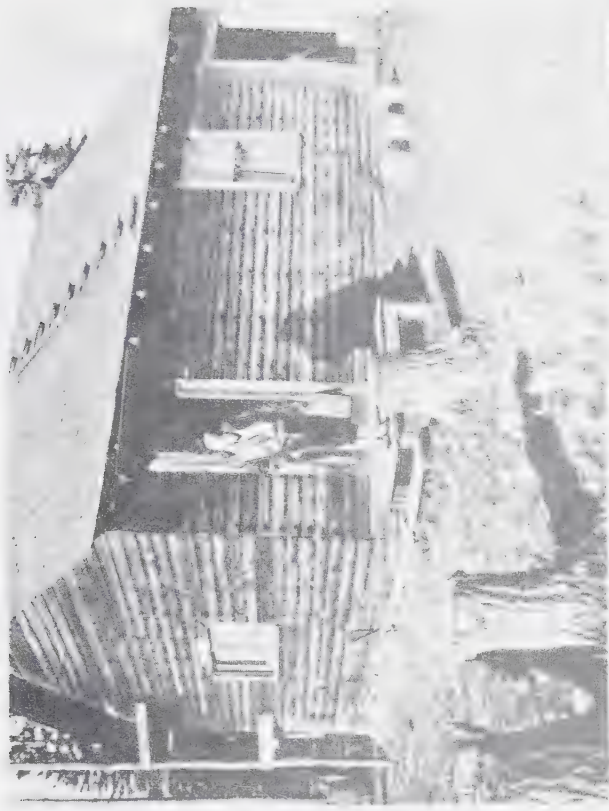
Helen McArthur



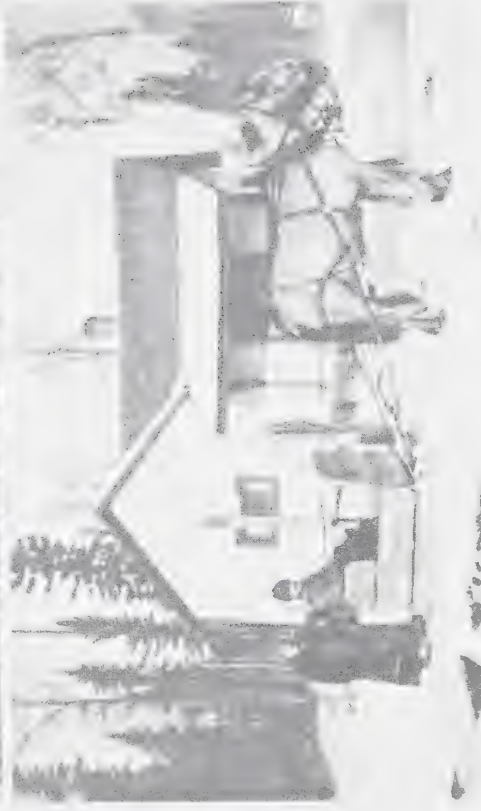
Christine Smith



In April 1946, this group celebrated twenty-five years in public health nursing: Marion Lavell, Olive Watherston, Amy Conroy, Isabel Hawkes, Blanche Emerson



Elizabeth Clark Dorland in front of the old cottage at Pendryl, about 1926



Amy Conroy boarding a cutter in front of the new cottage at Pendryl, about 1940

Bunney. On November 17th, 1921, she tendered her resignation and left to reside in Winnipeg.

Last registered Nurse on record was Sarah Elizabeth (Smith) Heldal born September 21, 1888 in Best Beech Hill, England. She received her education and became a nurse in her native land. Served with distinction as a war nurse with British Armed Forces in World War I, and received the Silver Cross for bravery.

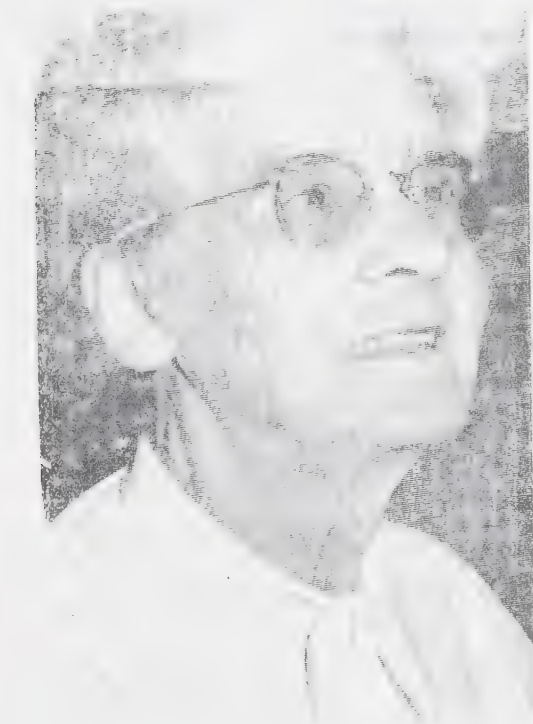


Pendryl Nurses Cottage -
Helen Garfield

She came to Canada in 1921 to the Yeoford area as Reg. Nurse. Spent some time in the Peace River Block and returned to Yeoford to live and continue nursing as she was a member of the Alberta Association of Registered Nurses. She was joined in matrimony to Thomas Aksekson Heldal in 1927 and made Yeoford their home where she added the duties of housewife and mother to those of nurse. This union brought forth one daughter, Joyce, born March 8th, 1929.

An active and determined woman, she travelled great distances in all sorts of weather, by any means available - on foot, horseback, wagon, sleigh or unreliable horseless carriage of the day over less reliable roads and wilderness! One goal in mind, to reach those in need of help. Unsurmountable obstacles were regarded by her as temporary inconveniences and she took them in her stride. Determination, courage and stamina were the qualities possessed in abundance by Sarah Heldal who gave a willing and capable hand to develop the land in which we proudly live today.

Only illness terminated her good work. We are indebted to her for more than forty-five years of dedicated service. Those who have known her are fortunate, those who have not are fortunate to enjoy the benefits of her toil.



Nurse - Mrs. Elizabeth Heldal shown with medals with which she was decorated during World War I. The box and card at top was the gift of the then, Princess Mary during the first year of the Great War.

Nurse, mother and a hardy pioneer, Sarah Heldal leaves to mourn her loss, friends, neighbours and the following relatives: Son-in-law, George Miasnikoff, Ma-Me-O Beach, Grandson, George Theodore Tosten Miaskifoff, married to Jeanette Ouyette on October 23, 1971, both residing in Edmonton and attending University.

Joyce died January 9th, 1954. Her father Thomas (Tosten) died in the same year.

Compiled by Mildred (Long) Goodkey.

Closed March 31/60

ALDER FLATS - Opened as a Training Centre during the depression in October 1934 by the A.A.R.N. Established as Full Time District in November 1943, but continued as a Student Centre by Government - salary \$50.00 per month until 1943.

First nurse's home was torn down in 1943 and replaced by an attractive new bungalow. Considerable furniture sent out by the Dept. for the cottage from time to time. Land for the cottage was donated by Mr. Demant. The following nurses have served in the district:-

1. Miss Marjorie Maynes October 1934 to April 1935.
 2. Miss Jean McKinley - April 1935 - Sept. 12/35.
 3. Miss Effie Johnson - Nov. 22/35 - March 19/36
 4. Miss C. E. Rowles, - March 30/36 to Aug. 10/36
 5. Miss E. Muriel Grant - Sept. 21/36 - April 15/37
 6. Miss Joyce Thornton - April 17/37 - Oct. 1/37
 7. Miss Hazel L. Ferguson - Dec. 9/37 - Resigned to be married.
 8. Miss Helen M. Garfield - May 23/38 Served in Pendryl district.
Later transferred to Social Hygiene Clinic, Calgary.
 9. Miss Margaret M. Reid - Jan. 13/39 Served in Smith and Maloy.
Resigned to be married and joined Mr. Dallamore in Far East.
Mr. Dallamore was killed early in the war, and Mrs. Dallamore remarried and is now living in South Africa.
 10. Miss B. M. Cogland - July 17/39 - Served at Tulliby Lake - Pendryl-Lindale and Hines Creek. Leave of Absence to join Armed Forces.
Resigned to go into business in Vancouver. (Handwritten - Deceased 1971)
 11. Miss Madeline G. Matthews - Nov. 13/39 to Feb./40 - Served at Maloy.
Resigned to be married.
-
11. Miss Elizabeth Wallwork - Feb/40 - Served in Maloy; Ft. Assiniboine, Blueberry Mountain; Sunnynook and Craigmyle. Resigned to be married Oct. 17/43
 12. Miss Jennie B. Thomson - Aug. 6/40 - Served in Smith & Tulliby Lake
 13. Miss Norah McCallum - April 28/40 - Served at Valley View. Resigned November 10/42 to become Mrs. Southworth
 14. Miss Virginia M. Bransager - Jan. 13/41 - Served at Smith, Kinuso and on Travelling Clinic. Now with Baker Clinic.
 15. Miss Mary H. Willis - Sept. 18/41 - Served at Maloy, Youngstown, Pendryl, and Worsley. Resigned May 31/43 to become Mrs. R. Taylor
 16. Miss Barbara R. Ford - Feb. 16/42 - Resigned to be married.
 17. Miss Lois G. Bird - Oct. 26/42 - Served at Lomond. Entered McGill in 1943. Joined Armed Forces 1944.
 18. Miss Marion I Lyons, Mar. 15/43 - Served at Maloy, Resigned Oct./43.
 - Miss Margaret Hodgson - July 13/43 - Served at Dixonville - Resigned June 6/45 - Now Mrs. Doerr, Alder Flats.
 - 20 - Miss Reine E. Peasley - Nov. 1/43 - First permanent nurse. Resigned January 26/44 to join Armed Forces.
 - Mrs. K. P. Cole - Feb/44 - Appointed to Alder Flats. Relieved in Dixonville summer 1945 while cottage was being built. Transferred to Whitecourt district following holidays. Sept/44
 - Miss Kathleen A. Ambrose - Aug. 23/49 Transferred to Ft. Assiniboine Oct. 10
 - Miss Roberta Kennedy, - Oct. 3/49 Resigned July 7/51 to be married.
 - Miss Eva Jeanette Turner, - July 3/51 - Resigned Feb. 28/54
 - Miss Lydia S. Thompson, April 6/54 - Resigned May 31/56
 - Mrs. J. M. Edwards - July 1/56 transfer from Whitecourt

ALDER FLATS DISTRICT:- June, 1947/ Miss J. S. Clark inspected.

This cottage was rebuilt during the summer of 1945. There is still finishing work to be done mainly an outside coat of stucco, painting of woodwork and finishing on the inside. Apparently the local Committee have purchased little livingroom furniture as most of it belongs to the Dept. of Public Works. A new toilet was constructed this last year. The woodshed will be replaced fairly soon. The Committee are in fairly good shape financially owing now about \$200.00. The response to collections in the district is very satisfactory. The people at Minnehik are supporting the cottage and it was decided to approach Balsam School District and also the Pendryl Committee for financial support. Actually operating costs are small since wood is donated, and they purchase about one ton of coal per year costing \$10.00, and pay a man to chop wood which in 1946 amounted to \$10.00. -----

Nov/48. Road now gravelled from Wetaskiwin to Winfield. Radio telephone installed in cottage. H. A. Evans.

May 30/49. Cottage is in a very satisfactory condition. A heater and small scatter rug were bought for the livingroom. The old large chair has been re-upholstered and new drapes bought. Pendryl donated an attractive Parkhill studio couch. New dishes and linen were also provided from Minnehik. A very modern work table, sink and cupboard has been added to the kitchen. The old cupboard is being used for the present, but will eventually be replaced with a modern one. Saw Mrs. Berquist and Mrs. Iverson, committee members. They state the debt on the cottage had been paid up. Funds are available to stucco the outside, and paper and

Inspection visit to Alder Flats, Cont. - May 30/49.

paint the kitchen and living-room. The Mossessen Lumber people are spending up to \$100.00 to glass in the two porches. The present woodshed is to be moved to a more favorable spot. There is a good supply of wood on hand. The grounds are gradually being put in shape, and the nursing service is said to be satisfactory to all. Miss K. Ambrose, nurse. B.A. Emerson.
Incorporated "Alder Flats District Nursing Society" Feb. 3/49

June 1948:- Mrs. Cole, district nurse. Records up to date. Office overstocked in gauze, absorbent, etc. Furniture in house nearly all D.P. Works. H.B.Co., donated linoleum. China cabinet, table, armchair, cane & upholstered; 4 white chairs, kitchen table, cupboard, woodbox, sawed off armchair, Margaret Reid's. Lumber Companies contribute well. Etter & MacDougall \$100.00; Camell \$27.50; Others \$25.00. Radio-telephone is installed. Committee meeting. Discussed Bernice Hoflin & Steve Stefura. Families registered at P.O., Alder Flats 187 & Transients Minnehik 50; Pendryl 50. M.A. Evans.

Feb. 1/50 Storm doors & windows; new coal heater; rack for p.h. literature.

Mar. 8-50.

F. Kennedy.

Inspection visit, lovely cottage, committee have plans for the summer.

M. Fitzsimmons.

Apr. 15/58. Mrs. L. M. Edwards resigned. No replacement.

March 31/60. District closed.

Mrs. Dorothy Smith Nov. 22/61



MR. AND MRS. W. G. OAKES

Came to district, Nov. 11, 1939 and stayed at his uncle, Mr. and Mrs. John Whitham's for a month. During this time, a shack was built on his land on the north end of Buck Lake. Walter secured a job at Fraser Bros. at Buck Mountain, November 17 that same year and takes pride in saying that at no time has he ever been dependant on any man for their living.

At their arrival, they had \$17 cash, half a hog, some groceries, a stove, one table, 2 chairs and a bed. They had lived in the United States and came to Canada in 1936, were married in the Presbyterian Church in Innisfail in 1936.

They adopted and brought up two sons, Roy and Jim, after having lost their own son while very young.

When asked what work he had done over the years he answered - milked cows, raised hogs, trapped, logged and any work that was honest. At present hs is developing a very popular lake shore camping grounds where many fishermen come and use his boats.

NORA O'BRIEN

On November 19th, 1971, Mrs. Nora O'Brien, of 12441 - 127 Street, Edmonton passed

away at the age of 57 years.

She leaves to mourn her loss, her loving husband Jim; two daughters, Mrs. William (Patricia) Davis of Carvel, and Mrs. Herbert (Annora) Buxton of Carvel; two sisters, Mrs. Violet Graves of Michigan, and Mrs. Ethel Magnuson of Winfield; four brothers, Delos Linton of Edmonton, Gaines Linton of Buck Lake, Paul Linton of Spokane, and Bob Linton of Denver; and 12 grandchildren.

The funeral service was held in the Roy and Owen, Chapel of Chimes on Tuesday, November 23 at 1:00 p.m., with Rev. H. Bye officiating and interment in Beechmount Cemetery.

OIL AND GAS INDUSTRY - ALDER FLATS AND BUCK LAKE AREA

In the period between the end of the Second World War and the early 1950's, oil exploration and seismic crews worked throughout the area. The whole country was criss-crossed with survey lines, followed by the drilling of shot holes and recorder machines.

As a result of this seismic work Canadian Seaboard and associates drilled for oil on the A. O. Hicks farm in 1951. The location was NW $\frac{1}{4}$ 25.7.5. Commonwealth was the drilling contractor with Lyle Hiney the tool push using their big conventional Rig #1 to go down about 10,000 feet. Although some oil was recorded it was not at that time considered to be in commercial quantities and the well was abandoned.

In 1952, S and T Drilling found wet gas in the Mississippian Limestone for Canadian Delhi and associates. This was land owned by Ed Dersch and was followed by a well on the Chas. Parker Homestead (NW $\frac{1}{4}$ 16.46.6.) Arrow was the drilling contractor on this well and Jack Scott the tool push. Geologist was Wayne Hurt and drilling engineer was Jack Taylor now president of Can. Pacific Oil and Gas. These wells and others drilled later on the Fred Bjur and Alfred Bjur farms and some south of Betlamini's, resulted in the establishment of the Minnehik Buck Lake wet gas field. After gas sale contracts were obtained, a gas conditioning plant was built and placed on stream in Dec. 1961. This plant is operated by Canadian Delhi Oil of Calgary.

In late 1953, Great Plains drilled on the Ed Thomas homestead and were successful in obtaining oil production from the Viking sand as well as gas from the Buck Lake Mississippian zone. Ed Thomas was employed by them as a battery operator in early 1954, making him most likely the first production worker in the Pembina field. Also early in 1954, Mobile had brought in their Cardium discovery well at Violet Grove, across the Saskatchewan River.

This marked the beginning of the Big Pembina Oil Boom which continued into the 1960s although the busiest years were about 1954-1957. Alder Flats, Buck Lake and Buck Creek were real boom towns then. Drilling crews, Service companies, Supply houses and assorted contractors were everywhere and hundreds of men came and went. Many local boys got their start in life working on oil rigs or for construction contractors and later on for the producing companies.

Some of the most prominent producing companies in the Alder Flats-Buck Lake area were Canadian Seaboard, Hudson Bay Oil and Gas, Pacific Petroleum, California Standard, Pan American, Western Decalta and Canadian Delhi.

Submitted by Eric Wennerstrom - 1971.

CHARLES HERMAN OLIN 1867 - 1914 by Mrs. Mabel Johnson

Few men were more active and widely known in the Wetaskiwin district and surrounding districts than Mr. Olin. He came to this district in 1892.

Mr. Olin was born in Sweden and emigrated to Canada in 1886, settling first in Calgary, then Edmonton and eventually in Wetaskiwin and Yeoford where he spent the remainder of his life. He was a carpenter by trade and built many of the buildings in Wetaskiwin; the Star Store, the West residence and many others that are still there.

By this time, the Olins had three children, Olga D., Mabel V., and William C. so they moved in to Wetaskiwin so the children could go to school. Grandma Bengston came to live with us in Wetaskiwin until her death a year later. Grandma Bengston was a descendant of Carl Linnaeus, the Swedish naturalist and botanist.

Mother's youngest brother, Axel Bengston, married a Swedish girl in Worcester. He came out a few years after my mother and father and bought land two miles south from us, then brought his bride out. He worked with my father on his road and bridge gang. When we moved into Wetaskiwin, they moved in too, because they had children that needed to go to school.

In 1907 my mother died. In 1908 father decided to take us children and go back to

Sweden to spend Christmas with his folks. That was a memorable trip I never forgot. We children had never been outside Alberta. When we stopped off at Ottawa, Montreal and St. John, my father had to keep his eyes wide open, because whenever he missed one of us he would look back, and here we would be - staring at some big building.

There was so much fog on the Atlantic that we didn't get to Sweden in time for Christmas so my father got on a little Danish boat and we spent Christmas in Copenhagen. What a dream city it was! We got to Gøteborg, Sweden for New Years. We stayed there for four months. What a delightful time we had in Sweden. I wanted to stay there, but being the oldest, and mother gone, father said he needed me at home.

In 1899, he was appointed Inspector of Public Works for Central Alberta. He built most of the first bridges in his district. In 1904 he built 24 bridges among them the Lewisville steel bridge. Considering everything was hand labor and horses, this was no small feat. He also surveyed most of the early roads, south as far as Lacombe and north to Leduc and west to Buck Lake and east to Hardisty. Some of these roads are still in use.

Mr. Olin was elected to the Provincial Parliament in 1909 and re-elected four years later. He was the first Scandinavian emigrant so honored. He served for years on Wetaskiwin Council and Hospital Board and was a member of the Board of Trade. In religion he was a Lutheran.

In 1911 Mr. and Mrs. Olin took up residence in the Yeoford district. They built log houses and barns, and lived there six months of the year. Mr. Olin had two lovely trotters that would go the 50 miles from Wetaskiwin to Yeoford in a day on very poor roads, sometimes even corduroy roads. The Yeoford country was very beautiful and the three children all loved it. There was always a lot of activity as the land was being cleared. Among some of the men that helped Mr. Olin with this was Mirt Murfitt and Oscar Skoglund and these boys settled in the Yeoford country.

After Mr. Olin's death in 1914, Olga returned to college (Camrose Lutheran). In 1924 brother Bill died at the age of 20, and Mable and Olga were alone.

In 1914-15, Olga had a millinery store in Camrose with Miss Jessie Sharon. She was from the East, related somehow to Laura Secord. Olga later sold out and went to Calgary to her Uncle Emil's and then went to stay with a cousin when she started work with the Hudson Bay Company. She worked in the millinery department of the Bay, for six and one half year.

Mabel married George Johnson and she and her husband lived in Calgary. In later years Olga spent the winters with her and the rest of the year in her little house on the quarter of land her uncle left to her in the Yeoford district. This homestead later became the property of John Penley and now is owned by Sam and Gwenne Wheale.

Olga passed away at her home October 11th, 1968. Mable passed away February 26, 1972.

HELGE OHLEN

The Loov's, whom I met in Winnipeg in the spring of 1931, prior to leaving for Standard, Alta. where we both worked for Nelson River Construction Corp. Loov's later bought a house in Calgary.

A couple of years later, in the fall of 1933, I found myself in Winfield looking for work, and I was told that Mr. McDougall, who was running a camp not far from there, had gone in to Edmonton and would not be available for a week. After some inquiries, I found that I could get a ride with a homesteader to within four or five miles of Loov's as he had settled close to the west end of Battle Lake on some raw land where they were trying to make a home. The snow was quite deep and it was hard walking so I did not make very good time and it had been dark quite a while when I arrived and found William busy milking the cow.

He was so happy to see me and told me that he had just come back from Wetaskiwin, where he had taken his wife to the hospital. She eventually came back accompanied by a couple of babies (twins). That increased the Loov family to six and it was mighty crowded in the homestead cabin for themselves, let alone me, so I built a small cabin for myself of a type that I had seen in northern Sweden, popular with the charcoal burners of that time. It was very warm as you covered all but two walls with dirt. One wall with a window, the other for the stove. I stayed around and helped until the middle of January when I went to Norbuck and started to work in the woods cutting logs.

Money was very scarce in the logging woods, \$2.00 per day sounded good, but when you deducted for board and Sunday board you had just fifty-five cents left. I eventually left

and started to hunt squirrels. The first shipment I sent to Edmonton brought thirteen cents each, the next fifteen cents each, then the price went to eighteen cents per skin. On a good day, I could shoot, skin and dry forty skins but it was very exhausting. You slept and ate by an open fire, and also dried your skins. After about three nights by the same campfire, you took your stuff and moved a couple of miles further where the squirrels were not wise to you. But it was a very hard life. I was almost glad when the skins became blue and worthless so I could go back to my cabin at Battle Lake. Here I found that Loov had obtained a permit to trap muskrats on his own land so between that and cutting logs for a house, plus tending a couple of nets that we could set for our own use, we did not have any time to waste.

Besides that we had to break land for a garden and all the things that have to be done when you are starting a home from scratch and very little money.

The loneliness must have been so very hard on the wives of the settlers in those days. At that time I considered obtaining some land across the lake from Loov's but I got a job in Lethbridge for a month or two. After some work in the harvest fields at Ferintosh, I drifted on to Kimberley where I have now retired after thirty-five years underground.



The old log house we built in the spring of 1934 for Loovs. Helge Ohlen, Mrs. Loov, Verner, William, Billy & Bobby, about 1945.

In 1945 or 1946, I made a visit at Loov's and the changes that had taken place almost knocked me for a loop. The land all under cultivation, a nice fully modern home, the twins, Billy and Bob, were two smart looking youngsters, Verner, a big strapping looking man, Solvig, a beautiful girl that took a great delight in teasing me, telling my wife how mean I used to be to her, bawling her out for not doing to my satisfaction the jobs that I had given her in the house while her Dad and I were working outside. What happened was that I had set some bread dough and wrapped it in some clothing to keep it from getting chilled. Solvig, not knowing that, had upset the works and made an awful mess. She was glad to see her mother come back from town, that was obvious. Ten or twelve years later all those troubles and tribulations were just to talk about, the wife gleefully declaring her support of Solvig. William

and Asta defending me. We all had a most fun filled afternoon, reminiscing and comparing notes. What made the visit more interesting also was the fact that the Loov family knew the wife's sister, Mrs. Forsberg, who had been the postmistress at the old Yeoford Store three miles away only a year or two earlier. By that time they had sold the store and moved to Breton where Rudy was trucking lumber for the Pearsons, his wife's brothers and father.

I remember an incident that was so typical of the times so I will tell it. When coming west from Lacombe via "side door pullman" freight train (C.P.R.), I met another Swede, turned out that we came from the same parts. We knew the same people but had never met. He walked with a bad limp, the reason was that he had stopped a 38 special bullet in his thigh when he tried to outrun a policeman. He was afraid that they were going to frame him for some crime which is easy when a guy has not slept in a hotel and consequently has not got an alibi. But he was lucky, the bullet did not break the bone, so he did not have to stay in the hospital long, and the following thirty days in Fort Saskatchewan for the vagrancy rap was not bad, and the \$5.00 on the release was better yet. "If three or four of us with \$5.00 each could get together we could live through the winter. I know this part of the country. I used to work in the woods here. We can fix up an old camp to stay in, and the homesteaders are good people. If you do the right thing by them they will lend you a rifle and give some spuds, we could live on moose meat until things start to open up." That was so typical of the times and the thinking in those days. Very few had the idea that the world owed them a living. Hardships were taken for granted. The idea was "we'll make out".

I remember working in the camp later in the winter when a young fellow wanted to go to a dance where he knew a girl, but he had only the ragged work clothes he wore so all chipped in. I lent him a dress shirt and sweater, somebody else had a pair of pants that fitted. Someone else had a pair of shoes and he went well dressed and had a good time!

Money was almost nonexistent, but people in that part were used to that, so it did not seem to matter. Once we had pulled out a net full of whitefish - more than we could use so I filled a packsack and started hiking west calling in at the various places, thinking everybody would enjoy a change from rabbit, but ten cents a piece was too much money. Anyhow, in the afternoon, I was getting pretty tired and hungry when a lone bachelor said, "sure I will buy two fish and we will cook them and you help me eat them. You must be hungry". I did

not go any further that day and he had fish for several days when I left. Well this was just a few experiences, common place at that time, but would not happen today.

Helge Ohlen.

ANDREW AND MARGIT OLSON

The Olson family emigrated from Sweden during the first quarter of this century. My brothers, Albin and Edward, arrived in 1911. They were followed by my dad in 1913, my brothers, August and Olov in 1922 and 1923, and finally my mother, my sister, Karin, and myself in 1925.

Olov bought the quarter section on which we now reside in order that my mother would be near the Lars Larsons whom she had known in Sweden. Olov was sick when we arrived in Canada and passed away the next year. This was only two years after the death in Spokane, Washington of my brother, August. I didn't realize, until many years later, the heartache and loneliness my mother must have experienced as she left her home and friends for a strange new country and had to face the bereavement of two sons within such a short time.

My dad was employed by the C.P.R. at Wetaskiwin from the time he arrived in Canada until he retired to the farm in 1926.

My husband, Gunnar, arrived in Calgary from Sweden in 1929. We were married there in 1935 and moved to this district in 1938. We are now retired and looking forward to and enjoying the visits of our children and grandchildren.

Bertha Marklund.

MR. JOHN OLSON

One of the first settlers of Pendryl district, he was born in Varmland, Sweden and came here in 1912. He came by team to Battle Lake then walked the rest of the way. He homesteaded land, SW 1-46-5-5, and over the years cleared his cultivated acres by hand. He recalled that travel in those days was very difficult as only the hills were dry. All low land was inundated so roads twisted and turned following the high places.

During the Second War years, he was employed as assistant carpenter to Mr. Ben Stady on the D. E. W. line.

Years 1955 and 1960, he journeyed to Sweden to visit his two nephews. He passed away in 1962 at the age of 84. His farm then became the property of Rowland Rupertus.

Mr. Olson and Mr. G. Berg drove a team of oxen down the road which is now Jasper Avenue in Edmonton when first they came here in 1912. They drove as far west as Yeoford then started out on foot to Pendryl, each carrying a sack of bread.

JOHN AND LENORE OLSON

John Eric Olson came to Canada from Sweden in 1928 and first arrived in the Winfield area in the fall of 1929, to work in the logging camps, first at Snells, then Sanford Nelsons. During that summer he worked for the C.P.R. in Lacombe, then for the railroad around Winfield after 1930 for the next several years. In 1933, he purchased the raw quarter on which he still resides.

During the intervening years the country has changed beyond recognition but the old days are still remembered with enjoyment.

Dances were frequently held at Wenham Valley, Yeoford, Norbuck and Winfield Schools. Girls were scarce and there was much rivalry amongst the loggers of the various camps.

The population of Winfield itself numbered about forty but the winter saw the influx of hundreds of seasonal workers for camps, mills and planers.

No dance was a success without at least one fight, usually caused by "girl trouble" or the desire to find out which camp had the champion fighter. Suddenly the dance floor would be cleared of men, as if by magic, with only girls left, while the action was all transferred to the outside.

Saturday nights in Winfield rarely ended without at least one fight in the middle of the main street. Store windows were frequently a disaster area as combatants fell or were knocked into them.

Roads were so unreliable, and for the first few years no buses were available. The only means of leaving the country or getting into it, was by the "Peanut Special". Due to all the shunting around mills, it was usually a seven to eight hour trip from Edmonton.

Occasionally, the train crew would take pity on some passengers and invite them into the caboose for a cup of tea. Sometimes too, the train would be stopped at Winfield or Breton to allow passengers a chance to eat at "Ma Groulx's". Time on the line was of little importance. Stops were made to chase cows off the track and the story was often told of the crew out picking a few strawberries for lunch. The distance between Winfield and Breton was ten miles by track, twenty-two by road, through Wenham Valley but with all the mills to stop at and take on lumber cars, it many times took three hours by train. One day when I was a passenger, three men went up to the hotel at Breton from the train and were left behind. Three hours later, when the train stopped at Winfield, they were waiting on the platform, having hired someone to drive them the twenty-two miles by road to catch up with the train again.

As the only hall in Winfield had been turned into a store in 1931 by Mr. Robt. Husband, it was decided to build a community hall, which is now the Lion's Hall. In 1932, logs were cut by John Olson, Anton Johansson and Archie Donald. Mr. Drader sawed the lumber for half, and with the help of the Frances family, who did the skidding, many around, including Sid Handbury and John Olson, the hall was built. When in 1934 John married Lenore Husband, a high school teacher from Wenham Valley, their wedding dance was held in the new hall.

For our wedding, held at my parents home in Winfield, the Rev. Fraser had to come from Breton by train as roads were impassable. Church services were held at the home of my parents for quite a while until the building of St. George's Church.

The fall we were married was a very bad one with the snow stopping the harvest for the month of September. John had to dig the potatoes in the mud and dry them on the kitchen floor the week of the wedding. Also roads were too bad between town and farm for anything but walking, so I had no chance to arrange the house at all.

Roy Gibbon's managed to drive us out the night of the wedding and we started to arrange furniture. Times were very hard and we were not pleased to have bought a bedroom suite, but on setting it up that night, discovered the company had sent the wrong size of springs and it all fell down so we spent the first night of our honeymoon on the floor.

These were also the days of bad forest fires and John would be away two or three days at a time and I would be alone with the road closed on all sides of me by the fires burning. During one of these episodes, the Eliason, Moseson mill, a half mile from our place, burned down. Also Frasers mill at Norbuck burned, the residents fleeing into Winfield around four in the morning. One man, Delos Linton, was accidentally left behind and saved himself by lying in the creek there.

We thought it a marvelous mark of civilization when the bus started to run between Edmonton and Winfield, but with dirt roads and poor grades, that too, was sometimes a nerve wracking experience, as the road then went on the old Battle Lake road and around "the hairpin turn" or "hair raising" in bad weather. One time that I especially remember, the canyon was very wet and dangerous. The bus driver, Evan Vaughn, tried to phone to Verne Grover to get the passengers in his jeep but could not reach him so inched his way around the dangerous road. Some passengers wanted to walk down instead of riding but Evan said "No, we either make it, or all go together". We made it!

There are so many interesting events and people that make up the past of this country, it is difficult to know where to draw the line - like the lumberjack who carried 400 pounds of supplies from Winfield to Eliason's mill in one trip, that redoubtable lady, who easily carried fifty pound sacks of flour in one hand between store and wagon and whose considerable girth seated on the container of mash, successfully eluded the mounties search for her suspected still.

Lenore Olson - 1971

FAMILY HISTORY OF OWEN O'MEARA AND CHILDREN

Born in 1901 at Staffordshire, England, Owen travelled by boat to Canada at the age of two, with his parents. They settled in the Sylvan Lake area in 1903, where they farmed until the passing of Owen's father.

Coming to Pendryl in 1927, Owen met his wife, Sylvia Adams. They returned to Sylvan Lake until 1929. Here their eldest daughter Hazel was born in 1928.

In 1929 they homesteaded on the Pendryl School quarter, SE 1-40-4-. Owen made his first trip to Winfield by gravel road. Their oldest son, Ron, was born in a neighbour's house on the original Alfred Engler quarter. Their own home was completed before Blaine's arrival. Blaine, their second son, was born in a log cabin, constructed by hand with the

aid of an axe and hand saw.

However, their homestead was exempted and they moved onto Sylvia's parents' home quarter. Owen began working in lumbering camps and so continued until the purchase of the farm now owned by Blaine. Meantime, the youngest children, Sara and Jerry, were born before they moved, in 1939.

The following spring, Owen's wife and newborn son lost their lives due to pneumonia. Inaccessible or no roads prevented anyone from providing help in such an emergency.



Back: Grandma Goodkey, Mrs. Sylvia O'Meara and daughter Sara. Front: Ronnie, Blaine, and Hazel O'Meara.

Owen raised his family alone with the help of nearby neighbours. They helped care for the younger children while Owen worked on local farms and in sawmills. Hazel continued at her schooling and helped raise the younger children. At sixteen, she went to work until her marriage to Gavin Clark at the age of eighteen. They moved about until Gavin finally moved to Red Deer with the railroad. Here they still reside, parents of four young boys.

Ron started harvesting at fourteen for neighbours. At sixteen, he began trucking and still does so. His wife and family reside together at Taber now and Ron still trucks part time.

Sara remained home, marrying at eighteen. She and her husband, Arnold Walsh and children live on Arnie's mother's quarter, Mrs. Mary Walsh, another first family in the district.

Both Blaine and Jerry began working at fifteen and continue to do so at various jobs. Later, they met and married sisters from Calgary. Blaine and Betty have two children and now farm the original quarter. Jerry purchased the next quarter in 1966 where he and his wife, Pat, and two children dwell now.

Owen continues to live with Jerry, his youngest son and continues to visit frequently with the rest of his children.

OUR HERITAGE

Written in centennial year - honorable mention in Journal literary contest.

1. A hundred years ago
The stalwart pioneer came
West in covered wagon
His heart aglow with flame.
For stretched in endless display
From mountain range to sea
A vast new country waited
A nation made - to be.
While hostile peoples roamed the plain
And death struck swift and sure
Tis only for the courageous
Hope will long endure.
Often homes and loved ones
Were smitten to the ground
By those who in their ignorance
Knew not how peace is found.
2. Tho' oft time disappointment
Plagued these hardy ones
With strong will and noble heart
They endured for their sons
Let not their trial and hardship
Be writ in blood for naught
But east hold west in friendship
In the peace our fathers bought.
Now our hearts are bowed
In memory to their fame
Not withstanding creed or color
This mighty nation came.
With hands outstretched to all,

Hold on to freedoms call
And make this, our heritage,
The greatest of them all.

Hazel Samel.

BLAKE AND DOROTHY PATTERSON

Blake Patterson was born at Drumheller and raised in Calgary. Dorothy Schielke was born near Sibbold, then her parents, Gus and Elizabeth, moved to Round Hill, later moving to Bittern Lake in the 1930s.

Blake and Dorothy came to Battle Lake district about 1961. Melody was in the Mount Butte 4H Beef Club.

The Patterson's now make their home in Calgary.

FRANCIS CHARLES AND EMMA ALICE PAPINEAU

Francis Charles and Emma Alice Papineau arrived in Lacombe with their family on Aug. 14, 1902, from Moline, Illinois. They were met by Mr. Rochan. They stayed in Lacombe for four months and during the winter the family moved by covered sleigh through the Blindman country to Chesterwold where they lived for a while with a bachelor named Cooper.

In the spring Frank, as his friends usually called him, began working for the McKelvie Blaine Lumber Co. The timber was at Battle Lake where the family lived in a log house with a door of split logs and a string latch for closing. The dirt floor was covered with long slough grass which had to be replaced frequently.

In the spring of 1904, the family returned to Chesterwold and built a house on the homestead and prepared a garden site. During the next two years the family moved back to Battle Lake in the fall to continue logging and returned to their homestead in the spring.

All of the logs cut during the winter were floated down the Battle River to Ponoka where they were sawed. In 1906, the Blaine and McKelvie Lumber Company failed so Frank borrowed money and continued logging on their limit. Then he put in a saw mill at the Lake and this became the only place of employment for miles around. A good community life developed and though not always approving of what the neighbours did, when any one needed help (usually in sickness) everyone gave freely of anything they had.

Among the early settlers were: Bunneys, Heacocks, Eastmans, Hunters, Tompkins, Kortzmans, Thomas' and Hagens.

The need for a school resulted in the building of the Cree Valley School and the first teacher was Linney Snarr. One of the pupils from this early class, Dorothy Thomas, became a successful short story writer in the States in later years. Many of her stories had names and activities of these early settlers (these appeared in Chatelaine, Saturday Evening Post and Redbook).

Land was donated from the Papineau farm at Battle Lake to build an undenominational church which is standing beside the old highway.

During some of these years Frank Papineau operated a mill near Pigeon Lake. The lumber was hauled down the Lake on scows and then into Wetaskiwin for sale. It seemed that Frank never wrote a bill for any of his lumber transactions but always received payment for these bills. He seemed to be a natural mill-rite and thoroughly enjoyed his work.

Frank helped many homesteaders locate their locations in the heavy timber which at that time grew around the Lake. Mrs. Papineau used to relate this story of two Americans who had come in to look for their land.

"It was raining and the sod roof was leaking. These two unfortunates had no place and begged for any kind of shelter in the already crowded house. Finally they were bedded down on a straw tick on the floor under the kitchen table which had an oilcloth covering to keep them dry. After everything was quiet, the following remark was made by one of the homesteaders, "This bed only has one straw and that's a brier!""

Ministers and doctors came from Ponoka by horseback. One of these preachers had a neat way of catching his mount. He took the mirror off the dresser and by letting the horse see himself he was able to catch the animal. Preacher Burwash went into business at Ferrybank and later was instrumental in opening the Peace River country.

In the winter of 1905-6, there was an epidemic of diphtheria at the camp and anti-toxin was brought from Ponoka by horseback to fight the disease.

Chief Paul Raine and later Chief George Raine, used to come to the Papineau farm where several of their tribe were buried to hold religious services early each summer. The

land was given to them and fenced with lumber from the nearby mill. Mrs. Papineau used to relate how the Indian women and children came to church when it was held in the home before many white women came. They enjoyed looking at the Eaton catalogue!

In 1911 Frank was appointed foreman to build a road from the present Ma-Me-O Beach to Wetaskiwin. Much of the present blacktop follows this original trail.

The homestead was sold to Sam Doran and in 1912 the Papineau family left the Lake. They resided at Athabasca Landing until near the end of the First World War when they bought property in Camrose. Frank passed away in 1942 and Emma in 1958. Both are buried in the Camrose cemetery.

FRANK PAPINEAU

Frank Papineau arrived in 1902. They were the first white people to settle at the west end of Battle Lake. He ran a sawmill and their closest neighbour was fourteen miles down the river. Frank Papineau also was foreman for the first road built to Wetaskiwin. They had seven children, the youngest of whom is George.

They donated land for the Battle Lake Church. Mrs. Papineau held church in their home and the Indian ladies came faithfully until the white women came, then they wouldn't come anymore.

George married Selma Young and Keast and Dawn were born out here. Betty, George, and Dennis were born after they moved away. Keast and Betty and their families are making their home in this district.

CHARLES E. PARKER (Buck Lake Twp 46-6-W5)

In the winter of 1918, Charles E. Parker visited his wife's cousin, Wilberry Wilson, of Buck Lake. In the spring of 1919, he homesteaded the NW 16-46-6-W5, where his son, Norman, now lives. His eldest son, Lloyd, homesteaded the SE 16--46-6-W5. In July of 1916, he with his wife and 9 children, moved from Lacombe to Lloyd's homestead. In the summer of 1920, he built a log house on his own homestead. Three children were born here.

The family left East Jordan, Michigan in the spring of 1918 and lived in Lacombe for one year. They chose this area because it was a timber country, recommended by Wilberry Wilson, who had also come from Michigan and was interested in logging.

They travelled from Lacombe with a team and wagon, a very difficult journey - 8 days from Hoadley to Buck Lake with a broken reach to replace each day. West of Rimbey they joined up with an acquaintance named Lafferty, also on his way to homestead. He had 60 head of horses and help proved invaluable in fording creeks and mud holes. The route from Rimbey was north of Bluffton, through John Mann's by Hoadley, up through the hills east of Betlamini's, south of Pendryl (then) to the trail of Gus Bjur's store. They camped where Henry Brown lives now, crossed Mink Creek to north of Oscar Larsson's, through to Lloyd's homestead where they built a 16' x 12' log shack, dirt floor and plank roof, with a sod roof lean-to for bed rooms.

The post office at the time was in the home of Mr. Sissons, not far from the lake on NE 15-46-6-W5. A log school had just been built on SE 17 with Mrs. Augusta Wilson as first teacher. This was named Buck Lake School. The nearest store was at Yeoford but in the winter of 1919-1920, Ike Gibbons moved on SE of Sec. 9 and opened a store in his house.

Early neighbours were: Oscar Larsson and family, SE 4 - now Seigrid Larssons; Bill Siegel and family, SE 5 - now E. Rivers; Coblin, alone, NE 22 - now E. Dersch's; Frank Meikel - alone, SE 15 - now A. Kasermans; Ludwig Larson, NE 28 - now Don Parker's.

These people lost two children and moved out in 1919. Freeman and Jose Wilson; Ebbie Wilson; Wilberry Wilson, NE 16 - wife was teacher; Sissons - NE 15.

J. Tippings lived on Wolf Creek and there were several families, including Berg's, Bjur's, Taylor's, Betlamini's, Pochas', east of the lake and in Maywood district.

For their stock, wild hay cut by hand on the lake shore was all that was available. Land was cleared by hand, Indians were often hired to cut brush. The land was very wet, with poor drainage. Shallow dug wells provided an ample supply of water.

It was just after the war and food prices were very high (comparatively). Groceries were freighted in by wagon from Wetaskiwin. Bacon 60¢ a pound, flour \$9.00 a hundred. Their cow, brought in from Lacombe, cost \$105.00.

They trapped for furs in the first winter. In 1921, the older boys worked at Fraser's logging camp at Berrymoor, the wages being about \$110.00 per month.

The biggest problems were no roads, lots of mud and water.

People had lots of fun - there were weekly dances or parties at neighbours, with moon-shine outside. Young people thought nothing of going to (or coming from) Knob Hill, Iola or Hoadley on horseback or with the team and cutter to enjoy an evening of dancing.

Everyone was very neighbourly and visited each other often, though too, there was often near feuding over school board disagreements.

The winter of 1919 was a very hard one with 6 feet of snow. After his small supply of wild hay gave out, Mr. Parker brought his two horses and one cow through by shovelling the snow off the grass along Rat Lakes so the animals could browse behind him. This was a daily chore for about three months.

In spite of the hardships faced by these pioneers, people did not have the tensions of the following generations. They were more content with what they had, making money was not as important, making a living was satisfactory.

Of the original family, four boys and two girls, Lloyd, Jack, Clare, Norman, Alberta and Evelyn still make their homes in the Buck Lake district, also several grandchildren have grown up and established homes here.

Submitted by Elsie Parker.

PEACEFUL VALLEY SCHOOL

Peaceful Valley was built on the SW 29-45-2-W5 to serve a small number of students having too far to go to school. It was opened on February 3rd, 1939 with Mrs. Mary Wilson teaching. She taught five years. Mrs. Bernadine Freeman taught until it closed and students were bused to Lakedell School, in 1946.

PENDRYL POST OFFICE CLOSED AFTER 53 YEARS OF SERVICE

On January 15, 1969, another link with the past was severed, when the Pendryl Post Office which had been in existence for 53 years and served the district so well was officially closed.

The Pendryl P.O. was established November 1, 1916 and was opened as a non-accounting office and elevated to accounting status August 1, 1936. It was first established at the site of the present Jim Willows farm. Harold Weaver became the first postmaster, and it was he who gave it its name, in memory of Fendryl Hall in south west England, which had quite a famous royal history.

The "Pony Express" was first run by young Jack Nowells and later by our late county councillor, Herman Siegel. The mail was brought from Yeoford, over bush trail by horseback for many years as the first real road was not built until 1922 by John Engblom.

When the Harold Weaver family left, the P.O. was moved to the Gust Bjur farm who in turn became postmaster in 1927. Later the post office was moved across the road to the N.W. corner of what is now part of the Betlamini farm.

Mrs. Margaret Beck was appointed postmaster January 31, 1940. Harold Woodward, Sr. Oct. 31, 1940. Mrs. Anna Bjur Nov. 7, 1940. Miss Ines Bjur March 9, 1942. Mrs. Irene Nilsson June 16, 1945. Gunnar Bjur March 9, 1946. Carl Bjur August 26, 1954. Gunnar Bjur March 8, 1956 and on Dec. 16, 1956 Harry (Jim) McNaughton became the last postmaster. The revenue for the fiscal year 1967-68 was \$445.00.

In 1955 the Post Office was moved to its present site, the S.W. corner of what used to be Bob Fraser's farm now owned by Harvey Sharp.

The Rural Route was established in the district and the postal department came to the decision to close the Pendryl P.O. Mailing by rural delivery is not always convenient and the Pendryl P.O. will be sadly missed. Although many would have preferred the retention of the P.O., it seems we must bow to progress.

A stranger driving through the spot where the Post Office was situated from the late 1920s to the middle 1950s would never guess that there was a busy little centre there as there is nothing left but a few rusty nails in a field.

ALBERT PENLEY as told to Betty Bunney

Albert Penley came from Kelfield, Saskatchewan in 1923 in a "about 1920" Ford Coupe with John and his father, William Penley, and homesteaded on NE 33-46-3-W5 and they left in 1926. Mother and Dad came back in 1928 in a 1927 Ford Touring and stayed on the place.

In 1930 they bought the Mark Wenham pre-emption and bought N $\frac{1}{2}$ section 3 just south of it. Albert got a job with Government Telephones and in 1929 started with Calgary Fower and stayed with them a year. Mark Wenham was the land agent.

Albert Penley was born in Orillia, Ontario in 1902. His grandparents came from Bangor, Maine. Their first home was built of lumber on land previously owned by Mr. Grey (a fellow nicknamed "Coochev" owned it before that and lived in a dugout about six feet deep).



Mr. & Mrs. Will Penley, Pat, Bill, and Percy Collison

They moved to their present home in the fall of 1949. He married Frances Albright of Forestburg in 1941. Frances' brother, Louis Albright, and his new bride came to the old Heldal place about 1933.

About 1936 rabbits were in great abundance and he made fairly good wages as their hides were worth from 17 to 21 cents each. For extra income he also helped supply music at their local dances, in halls and schools, by playing banjo, guitar and accordian. He traded a fur coat of beautiful long fur for Wallace McLaughlin's new accordian. After some time he finally traded the accordian to Fred Harris for a Marine motor. Vern Grover played the Maybelle drums with him for three years. On the fiddle was Martin Ocher who lived near Breton. They played 3 nights a week at Pendryl, Buck Lake, Knob Hill, Wenham Valley as well as several other places, occasionally.

Life in comparison seemed much better then than now. "We came to the Wenham Valley area with the idea to buy and sell but we just couldn't resell." Louis Albright's are now living at Blackfalds, Alberta.

"Sometime before we came a heavy snowfall in June covered a disk all except the very tip top of the seat that was in a small field that John Stone was in the process of disking when the storm struck."

There were three children. Wayne was born November 18, 1942. He and his wife, Lorraine Weibe, were married June 9, 1966 and live in Edmonton. They have one daughter, Teresa, born March 6, 1970.

Robert born October 16th, 1946 and Isabelle born February 5th, 1948, both deceased July 15th, 1968.

GUST PETERSON AND FAMILY by Ede Drader

My mother and dad, Gust and Anna Peterson, two brothers, Ole and Fred, and myself, Ede, moved from the prairie town of Delia, to Pendryl. My sister, Christine, stayed to further her education and work.

The first six months we lived on the C.B. Long place which he had just purchased from John Anderson.

The trip from Delia to Pendryl took about two weeks as the old truck wasn't in shape, and as we had high hopes and the weather was fine, it did not seem so long. On nearing our destination during the night, we had to stop as the bridge was out, so we walked the rest of the way. It took a day to make the detour of just a few miles with the truck as the trail was soft and after loading and unloading finally made it.

Fred and I attended Maywood School until the term ended. Mr. Cairns was the teacher. We found the winter long and lonely, no school or activities, but we did go fishing and caught our first fish. We helped Ole get out firewood and did a little amateur trapping and hunting.

In March Mother and Dad were employed by Art Burrows who operated a sawmill at Norbuck. Mother cooked and Dad blacksmithed. My brothers and I then moved to the homestead on the north end of Buck Lake the NW 33-46-6-5. Our Post Office was Minnehik. The homestead today is a farm owned and operated by Ed Thomas who filed on it after Dad gave it up to file on another quarter, the S.W. of 33. We moved there the following March.

To start with we had a team, a cow and calf, a few chickens, a dog and half a dozen cats. A small log shack was built and a shelter for the animals. The first summer the boys cleared an acre or so and cleared a little on the hay meadows. For the first few years there was a lot to be done, fencing the small fields and meadows to keep the large herd of Cobblins cattle out and picking roots. Spare time in the fall was spent picking berries and hay was cut with a scythe and packed to small stacks. It was tedious work, but as the years passed our herd of Herefords grew.

Ole homesteaded the quarter on the north shore of the lake, part of the land is sloped

to a huge hill and to this day is known as Ole's hill to all oldtimers. This land adjoined Leander Bjurs fraction to the east, Leander and his son, Hjalmer, lived on the bank of the Buck Creek, the outlet of the lake. Many a gathering was held there in the spring when people from all directions would come for fish and hold a picnic. Leander went back to the old country and Hjalmer moved away. Mr. Sopher and his small son, Conrad, stayed there for a while. Then Rudolph Wilkins moved his mink in and had a mink ranch there for a number of years. At the beginning of the second war he went back to Germany. Herman Lind had a homestead adjoining ours on the west. The creek that ran through his place was called Larson Creek but was changed to Linds Creek and still has that name.



Fred Drader - 1934

Neighbours were few. The ones that have passed on are: Herman Lind; Bill Simmons who raised sheep; Joe Dostal known for his Angora goats; Emil Cobblin had a large herd of cattle and his first cleared acres were broken by oxen.

One luxury we had was our mail once a week, brought by Mr. Pennycook, who used pack horses and his route was from Buck Creed to Buck Lake, one day out and return the next. Many stopped on their way through as in those days it took days to go from one place to another. The mud was deep, the creeks high and the muskegs impossible. Trails were along ridges and most of the hauling was done by pack horse or pack sack.

Archie McDougall, who lived on the washout, was a friend of Ole's and they spent a lot of time together hunting. Archie passed away a few years ago.

Buck Mountain then known as Moose Mountain, was a beautiful sight with all the green timber and today there are miles of open spaces. The wild life and birds flourished. The call of the loon and other water birds now remain in memories. As the country developed, so much disappeared.



A log boom on Buck Lake

At the beginning of World War II, the demand for lumber grew and Dad got a contract logging and hauling to the lake. This was employment that gave us a few of the things needed to raise our cattle and develop the homestead. We logged for a number of years and Dad, with some help, towed the logs across the lake with a scow. Some summers all went well, but it was a sight to see when a boom broke in a high wind. The logs seemed to be free and made a distinct sound of their own and you knew that a boom was broken. Carrols mill was situated at Calhouns Bay and Etter-McDougalls at the Muskrat Creek. The logs were sawed there and the lumber trucked to the planer at Winfield. The last few years my Dad had a

mill situated on the banks of Buck Creek. He sawed there for a number of years and then sold to Fred, who sawed small patches of timber left by the contractors and fires. Ole enlisted in the Canadian Air Force at the beginning of the war and was gone most of the war years. He came back after the war with his wife, Adele, and small son, Eric, to work with my brother Fred in the mill. In the spring of 1947, Ole worked for Ross & Hales at Athabasca for a short while where he was injured in a mill accident and passed away that March. Fred then sold out and after working in Alberta for a few years, moved to B.C. with his wife Helen and daughter Myrna.

My brother, Knut, visited and stayed for short periods then returned to Norway where he married and has two children.

Mother passed away Dec. 1950 after a long illness. Dad then sold the homestead and it is now known as Buck Mountain View summer resort. He moved to White Rock, B.C. where he still resides.

Fred Drader and I were married in 1947 and in 1949 moved to the Hamlet of Minnehik now known as Buck Lake where we operate the garage, Draders Ltd.

There are many memories from the years gone by but none are as dear as the ones from the days in the early thirties.

YAN PETERSON

This story starts in Blaine, Washington, where I was born in 1902. My father and mother were living there at the time. In 1908 my father came to Alberta and homesteaded at

a point about a hundred miles north-east of Calgary. The family came out in the fall of 1909. It was then seventy-five miles to Stettler. From then on we farmed there.

In 1925 I was married to Bessie Young. We had three children, Grover, Minnie and James, in that order.

In the beginning of World War II, I joined the army, was discharged five years later and returned to Delia, our hometown, in the spring of 1945.

It was a very dry part to farm in so we sold out and moved to Winfield in 1947, bringing out machinery, household effects and stock with us. We bought the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ 2-46-5-5 formerly owned by Ben Stady. We operated the farm and worked in a sawmill for two years. Then we bought a small sawmill and custom sawed a bit. We then got a contract sawing and logging deal with Imperial Lumber Co. and went up in the LacLaBiche area and logged and sawed there for a number of years.

In the fall of 1950, fate struck us a sad blow when we lost our eldest son, Grover. Minnie married and lives in Edmonton. She has five children, Van, Grover, Peggy Lee, Robert and Mervin. James and Mary Engblom were married in 1952. They have three children, Evelyn, Donnie and Sharon. They now farm the old farm here.

In 1954 I sold the sawmill outfit and took a job in the Post Office in Edmonton and stayed there until retiring in 1967. In that year we moved to White Rock, B. C. to about two miles from where I was born and have lived there ever since.

I should add that my wife, Bessie, was born in Perth, Scotland and came with her family to Canada when she was two years old. We both keep in fair health and like the milder climate of the coast and have made many friends here, but the old friends will always be in our hearts and we get back quite often and see as many as we can.

Van Peterson.

PLACE NAMES

BUCK: lake, 46-6-5; "Bull" lake on Arrowsmith map 1859; in Cree, Ya-pa-oo, meaning "bull moose"; in Stoney, tam-no-amna (Tyrrell); Father Lacombe, in his Cree dictionary, gives ayabe as meaning "bull".

BUCKLAKE: creek, draining Buck lake, called by David Thompson "Sturgeon" creek.

BUCK LAKE HOUSE: Hudson's Bay Company trading post, built 1800, 50-5-5, on south side of North Saskatchewan river above mouth of Bucklake creek.

HOADLEY: village, 43-3-5; P.O. changed from Haverigs, 1924; after Hon. George Hoadley, appointed Minister of Agriculture, Alberta, 1921, upon formation of the Greenfield government.

PENDRYL: P.O., 45-5-5 (1916); after a family of Boscobal, Shropshire, England.

PIGEON: hill, 47-1-5; on Palliser map, 1859; in Blackfoot, nommo (Nelson).

PIGEON: lake, 46-1-5; in Cree hmi-hmoo-se-kha-higan or Woodpecker lake; in Stoney kakagamna (Tyrrell).

PIGEON LAKE: creek, Battle river, 45-27-4, also Indian reserve; the Stoney Indian name of the creek is ke-gemni-wap-ta; the Cree name, hmi-hmoo-sa-kha-higan sipisis or "Woodpecker Lake creek" (Tyrrell).

PIGEON: mountain, 24-9-5; named by Bourgeau, 1858; probably after the wild pigeons seen in the vicinity.

WINFIELD: village, 46-3-5; after Hon. Vernon Winfield Smith, Minister of Railways, Alberta, 1921.

YEOFORD: P.O., 46-2-5 (1909); after Yeoford, village, Devonshire, England, the former home of Charles H. Marson, postmaster.

THE PHIPPEN STORY by Mary Phippen Blackmore

Our father, William Phippen, was born in Napanee, Ontario, and spent his early years there. He came out to Alberta in 1910. Mother, Dorothy Dyson, was born in Huddersfield, England, and came to this country at the age of twenty-one. She had trained as a nurse and worked in this capacity in Eastern Canada.

Dad took out a homestead at Sheerness, S. E. of Hanna, Alberta. On a visit back east, he met Mom and after his return home, she and a friend decided to visit the west. She and Dad were married at Youngstown, Alberta in 1917. In 1922 they moved to the Brownfield district, N. E. of Coronation, and farmed there for 13 years. We, Dorothy Mary, John William and Barbara Edith were born there. The "dirty thirties" hit this district very hard, and we sold

out and moved to Calgary where we lived for two years. Meanwhile, Dad came up to the Battle Lake area in search of work. He worked in the lumber camp for Ward Snell. He logged on Section 36 (now owned by Dean Fowler) getting \$15.00 a month, then was promoted to "straw boss" and got \$18.00 a month. He worked here the winters of 1935-1936, then rented the Morley Williams place across Battle Lake known as "the Point". He then moved the family up from Calgary.



Mary, Barbara & Jack Phippen with boat used to cross the lake on way to school.

Jack had come up a few days ahead and stayed on the farm while Dad went back to Calgary for us. It was heavily overcast, and raining steadily. Jack had no clock or radio, so had no idea of the time. He went to bed at three o'clock in the afternoon thinking it was evening. Wyman Fullerton came about four p.m. and set him straight.

Only those who have lived on the prairies during those dry dusty years can realize how good this country looked to us, a land of milk and honey. On the prairie, crops and gardens, if they managed to survive the drought and resultant black blizzards, were attacked by hordes of hungry army worms and grasshoppers. Here at Battle Lake fish and berries were in such abundance that we feasted on them daily. After the stringent diets of the preceding months, this was gourmet food. Two friends from Calgary spent the summer with us. We had to pick our pails of raspberries before we could go swimming. One day Jack and his friend were back in a suspiciously short time. When Mom looked in their pails, she found they had stuffed their pails with leaves and put a few berries on top. We made a diving board and spent all the time we could, swimming and diving. We knew the lake depths there, and danger spots.

In the fall we had to go to Cree Valley School. This is one of the very few schools still standing on the original location. It was a long, wretched trail around the lake (we counted 65 springs from our place to Wyman Fullerton's) so whenever possible, we rowed a boat across the lake or in winter crossed on the ice, as this really cut the distance. When the lake was rough this could be a risky proposition. One time Morley Williams came across in the boat for us but it was so rough we were afraid to go. Morley had some tools and he tied these on the boat so they couldn't be lost if it capsized. Another time that Jack and Barb rowed across, it was so rough, Mom and I were sure they couldn't make it, and begged them to come back, but once started it was riskier to turn the boat about and come back. One time in winter there was a large crack in the middle, and when we got up to it the ice would sink and water come up. We were scared to cross, and stood there trying to decide what to do. Mom saw us standing there and yelled at us to "Get going", waving her hands at us. We went! The chances we took then!



Bill Phippen, his sister, Fannie Morton & Barbara digging potatoes

Jack was janitor at the school for a princely sum of \$2.40 a month. As he hated being left behind the others, he would rush through the work or leave it for morning, so he could walk with the kids, who would wait for him down the road. We had a very attractive teacher that year, so the boys, for awhile anyway, vied with each other for the honor of assisting her home. If Jack did the work in the morning he'd sweep so fast, we nearly choked with dust. When he had to get wood in, he'd form a human chain, or "log brigade" and pass the stove wood from one to the other until it had gone from woodpile to woodbox.

We lived in a log house, the cracks were chinked with moss. We slept on bunks built on a large shelf near the roof. Sometimes at night it would get too hot to sleep, so we'd pull moss out of the cracks to get a little fresh air.

We had a market garden down there. It was an ideal location for this, and sold produce at Ma-Me-O and along the beach. Mom baked piles of bread, buns, parker house rolls, cakes, etc. and sold these at Crystal Springs, Ma-Me-O and at the cottages. They were in great demand.

Dad had a stationary engine he had brought from Brownfield. He did custom grinding and sawing wood for all the neighbours - 8¢ to 10¢ a bag for grinding and \$1.00 an hour for

sawing wood.

One day when Jack and I picked up the mail at Battle Lake P.O. and went home by boat, we lost a letter. When we got home it was missing and we thought we remembered seeing something floating on the lake. Mom made us go right back and look for it. We found it floating on the water way across the lake. It was a letter from Tommy Hallett, a friend of Morley Williams, who was coming to visit from down south and wanted us to meet the bus.



Jack Phippen, Adolph Prelip, Bill Phippen with horse on stump puller moving house to top of hill.

In 1938, Dad bought a couple lots across from the Battle Lake store, then bought a quarter section, the SW 35-46-2W5, for \$75.00. Jack and Dad worked for Albert Fontaine, to get lumber for a house. There is a coulee and creek running through the quarter. They built a log barn in the bank, covered it over with straw. Jack maintained that when it stopped raining outside, it rained two more days inside. He was anxious to keep the snow off the roof in winter and was sometimes kept busy shoveling, so he wouldn't have it melting and dripping through. The house was of one ply lumber, a big two-story affair with a steep roof. This was also built in the coulee but the cellar got too wet. In the winter it was 40 below outside and 20 below inside the house. Jack froze his nose in bed. Everything inside froze solid. Even the chicken

house was warmer, so we debated whether to move in with the chickens.

Later the house was moved up on top, using one horse and a drum-type stump puller. When they stopped for the night, it sat at quite a slope, which felt rather peculiar. The move was completed without accident.

One day when Barb was alone the stove pipe caught fire. The water supply, a spring, was a fair distance from the house. Realizing no time was to be lost, Barb displayed great presence of mind. Grabbing the only thing at hand, a half-full chamber, she clambered up the ladder to the roof and flung the contents on the fire, extinguishing it. She also got some of the contents back on her freshly shampooed and curled hair, and had to do another wash and curl job in order to go to the dance that night.



"Bambi" the orphan deer being fed by Gayle Phippen

Starting with one horse Dad worked for Albert Nadeau and Letotourneau in the sawmills. Jack hauled feed for the stock from Thorsby across Pigeon Lake, home. There was no land broke when Dad bought the place. They broke land with horses and a breaking plough cleared by hand. A spring was our water supply.

Barney Coodan's old mill site was on the north west corner of Dad's land. There never was a road built in, just trails through the bush. When one got too bad another was made.

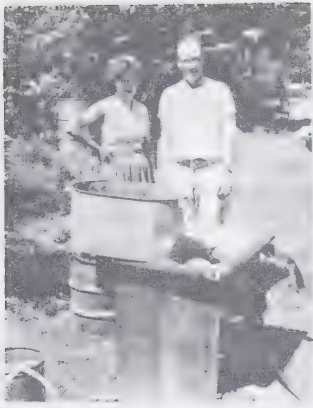
For entertainment there were card parties in the homes and dances. We walked or went with teams. Charlie Owen, a friend of the family stayed at our place a lot. One time we all went to a hard times dance at Cree Valley School. Charlie went just ordinary - and won first prize. Though times were hard, everyone seemed to visit more and have more fun. We were more dependent on each other.

I joined the R.C.A.F., Women's Division, in February 1942, and was stationed in Eastern Canada. I was discharged in September of 1945. In 1946 Barb and I opened a coffee shop at Battle Lake and had a good business there as it was on the main road to the west. I married Virgil Blackmore and we settled on the N.E. 25-46-2-W5.

Jack bought the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ 35-46-2-W5 for \$240.00. He married Mary Murfitt in November 1948 and they built a shack and barn on their quarter.

Dad continued farming until February 25th, 1952 when he fell and broke his pelvis. He was in hospital in Wetaskiwin for a long time. He sold his farm and stock to Jack and bought an acreage in Millet. They removed the steep roof of the house, making it one story and moved it to Millet. Dad made a fair recovery and was able to walk down town. He suffered a heart attack and died suddenly on July 10th, 1953.

Mom moved back to Battle Lake and enjoyed life. She enjoyed accompanying Gladys Johnson on her trips around the countryside. On one of these trips, In October 1962, the car Mrs. Johnson was driving was hit broadside at a country intersection. Mom was badly injured and died shortly after arriving in hospital.



Jack is still farming the original farm but has moved his buildings farther north. They have three children, Gayle, Darrel and Brian. Gayle is married to Dwayne Bailey and has a son, Clint.

Barb married George Brent and they had one son, Wayne. George died in 1955, and she later remarried and had three boys, Jackie, Keith and Dean. Jackie died accidentally. She now lives in Calgary. Wayne was married this summer (1971) to Susan Christenson of Calgary.

Virgil and I have three children, Bill, Bob and Irene. Bill is going to trade school in Edmonton. Bob married Betty Francis this fall and they went to Australia. Irene is working at I.G.A. in Wetaskiwin.

Our old home down on Battle Lake, has in recent years become the property of the Lieutenant Governor of Alberta, Mr. Grant MacEwan, to be used as a country home.

Mary and Jack Phippen and the gas stove - hooked up from their water well that runs water continuously. All canning and summer cooking done here.

MR. A. PLATZ FAMILY

Mr. Platz and family arrived from Oklahoma in November 1923. He settled on the NE 10-46-3-5. Mr. Barber had written to the Platz family, telling of the good land to be had for \$10.00. They came to Stettler by train and on to Winfield by wagon and horse.

Their first home was built of logs, and there was a spring that was a wonderful supply of water. At this time, Mrs. Bunker had the P.O. at Knob Hill. She donated the land for the first cemetery and her husband was the first to be interred there. The supply depot was also run by Mrs. Bunker. In the early days, there was a stopping place west of Battle Lake which was operated by George Marx.

Roy Gibbons ran a taxi service to Wetaskiwin in times of illness. Later, bus service to Wetaskiwin driven by Billy Welsford. Two of the early mail carriers were Ivo Bunney and Bob Beurit.

Seattle school was built in 1923 by a group of settlers from Seattle, Washington. Mrs. Astle was one of the first teachers there.

Mr. Platz proved up his homestead in three years. He grubbed many a tree stump 18 inches through. One day, he took out 37 - quite an accomplishment. He also helped build the Gibbon's store, which later burned down and was rebuilt. When the railroad was built he cut 17,000 ties with a bow saw and a common axe. Prices received for the ties were 35¢ for No. 1's, 15¢ for No. 2's and 10¢ for No. 3 culls.

In 1937-38, he logged at Buck Lake and in 1942, he had a sawmill south of Roy Adams' farm. Just before Christmas, someone lit the fire in the morning and by accident, gas was used instead of coal oil. Flames very quickly enveloped everything and

Laurence's boy, Marvin, was badly burned. Jack Goodkey took him and Miss Conroy to Wetaskiwin. None expected he would live but he did. The house and all contents were lost, even the Christmas presents that were to be given the family.

Mr. Platz recalled the many sawmills operating in this area in those days. Some were - Drader's, Sanford Nelson and Vigen's. George Cissel had a saw and planer mill. The knives on the planer were wired together but it still held. Mr. Cissel's daughter, Dorothy, was the boiler man. One time, the plug burned out of the boiler and a bolt was driven in and work continued. One day while sawing lumber, a herd of deer was sighted. The men quit sawing and grabbed their rifles, as wild meat constituted a large portion of the settler's subsistence.

Supplies for the year were stocked up each fall and many bushels of wheat were hauled to Wetaskiwin and ground into flour or exchanged for other items of food.

Some of their early neighbours were Stone family, Murfitts, Ellingsons, B. Wittakers Kluczyns and Bunneys.

Mrs. Platz passed away on March 30th, 1948.



Rumley oil pull power on first mill south of Roy Adams. Left to Right - Mrs. Platz, Bertha, Cliff, Virgil.

Mr. and Mrs. A. Platz children - Laurence, Clifford, Cecil, Goldie, Gordon, Virgil, Fay, Frankie and Jackie.

HERB AND ELSIE PLUNKIE

Herb's parents immigrated from Germany in 1902. They farmed near Leduc where Herb was born. In 1943 he married Elsie Trabach. He homesteaded his land in 1950. Their first house burned down in 1958. Present house was formerly Spruce Hill School teacherage with an addition built on.

They have four children - Martin in Edmonton, single; Dianne in Edmonton, married to James Richard. They have two children; Judy attends Foothills Bible School at Poplar Valley and Robert living at home attending Winfield High School.

Arnie Walsh, while helping Herb dig a well, hit himself on the head and was knocked unconscious. Herb also tells of an incident where he had his skid horse shot while he stood beside it - too close for comfort.

Herb and Elsie operate a mixed farm keeping both dairy and beef cattle.

THE POCHA FAMILY

Grandpa Pocha left Edmonton sometime prior to 1880 with one dog, his wife and family and a sled headed for Buck Lake. They travelled up the Saskatchewan River to Buck Creek then on to Buck Lake. He and his dog pulled the sled. He liked the land on the east side of the Lake and built his cabin there, south of where Fred Kuhn now lives. He had been here years before and liked the idea of being able to get such an abundance of white fish and there were fur bearing animals that could be trapped. Someone remembers seeing him in the early 1930's setting and pulling his net. At this time he was nearly blind and would be about 80 years.



Pochas were the first family to farm in the Blindman Valley area in the 1890's. The farm was near Nugent, a small village between Bluffton and Hoadley. The only mark now being that it is the end of the pavement coming north from Rimbey to Winfield.

Mr. Pocha Sr., father of Ed, Barney and Jim, was probably the only resident in the area who tilled the soil and hunted buffalo, as the last buffalo to roam the valley was shot by him. He owned a buckskin pony which he rode on these hunts. The Pocha family opened the first road into the district and following the general line of whatever saddle path existed. He blazed a trail from Blackfalds to Buck Lake and Mrs. Pocha cut the brush, finishing in twenty-one days.

Family of Ed Pocha: Laurence - deceased, Stanley, Dick - deceased, Ted - deceased, Maud - deceased, Jessie, Velma, Stella, Norma - married to Ike Haynes - three children, Sybil - living in Edmonton. Jessie, Velma, Stella, Norma and Ted attended Maywood School.

Lola & Laurence Pocha Once while the family were living at Nugent, a bear climbed into the pig pen shelter. Mrs. Pocha was alone on the farm that day. Some how she managed to close the door locking it in. Taking an axe, she climbed onto the roof and chopped a hole. The bear stuck his head up through the hole and Mrs. Pocha quickly finished him off.

POLICE DETACHMENT FOR W5.

The Royal North West Mounted Police opened a detachment at Westerosé in 1915 with one constable being stationed there. One Corporal was there in 1916 but the detachment was closed in 1917 when the Alberta Provincial Police took over the policing in the Province of Alberta. The R.C.M.P. did not resume the Provincial Police duties until 1932. Files do not provide any information on the type of building used nor if, in fact, we had our own building. It was quite common in those days to simply rent a building or to have our member(s) board with a local resident. We believe this was the case at Westerosé. The names of the members stationed there were not recorded.

R. C. M. P., Ottawa,

S. W. Horrall, Historian.

In 1920, the Alberta Provincial Police chose to open a detachment at Yeoford. J. P.

Nowell built a new, 2 roomed, 12' x 20', barracks beside his store and rented to the A.P.P. Frank Kingzett was posted first and was alone until October of that year when he married



Mr. & Mrs. Ben Shantz & baby, Ben Jr. & his brother Dick.

Miss Ethel English. General patrol was done on horseback or cutter to Minnehik, Rimbey, Battle Lake and home. They stayed homes for nights. He stayed at Yeoford for one and a half years, then moved to Wetaksiwin and Millet leaving the force and selling Rawleigh products. They have two children, Jean, Mrs. Tom McVeigh of Edmonton and Betty, Mrs. McDowell. "Homestead days were generally happy and it was a great interest to us to have known the friendship of people in this area which we enjoyed very much", said Mr. Kingzett. Following him was Ben Shantz, Sr.

Ben Shantz - Yeoford's A.P.P., 1921-1922

Ben Shantz was born at Battle River, east of Wetaskiwin in 1895. There were eight children in the family. Their father was Chief of Police in Wetaskiwin for ten years. Ben worked Wetaskiwin City Bakery for eleven years then joined the Strathcona Horse section of the army. In 1918, he joined A.P.P. and in 1919 married Annie June Shields from Penhold. They had two boys, Ben Jr. and Cameron. He first moved to Yeoford Barracks in late 1921 and stayed for one year patrolling the west area by horseback or "Bug". He was provided with two A.P.P.



Police Barracks at Yeoford beside store on NE 30-46-3-5. Frank Kingzett was the first police stationed here when it was built.

horses. His "Bug" was a small, one seated race type car he had to carry across streams or creeks if they couldn't be forded. In other words, a few logs was enough to get it across. He was shot through the thigh while on duty in November 1921 shortly after coming to Yeoford. In 1922, he was transferred from Yeoford. Before he left service, he also had policed Red Deer and Wetaskiwin area. After he left the Police force, he bought Mount View Hotel in Rocky Mountain House and also homesteaded at Frisco in 1933 and was chairman for the Rocky Mountain House School Division until he joined the army in the Second World War, Provost Corp. He escorted prisoners of war from New York to Seebe, west of Calgary, near the Big Ghost Dam. On getting out of the army, he policed the town of Rocky Mountain House for several years, then he worked at the penitentiary at Fort Saskatchewan till he retired in 1966 and now makes his home in Rocky Mountain House.

It is not possible to get the years Don Appleton and Bob Marx were on duty here nor were we able to contact anyone with accurate information on their services. Bob and Bernice were

Marx's two children. However, Mr. Kingzett says Robert C. Baynes later patrolled from Breton.

R.C.M.F. from Breton, as well as County Police now patrol the area.

THE POPLAR VALLEY CHURCH

It was in the early years of the Poplar Valley community that many of the people of the district felt the need of a church. Among these was Fred Shamp whose parents had moved into the Poplar Valley vicinity in 1921 having come from Nebraska.

Lumbering was an important industry in this western area at that time and soon the four Shamp brothers, Lionel, Fred, Clem and Ray and their father, started a sawmill located two and a half miles east of the old Pendryl store. This was in 1927.

About four years later in the early depression years of the thirties, Fred Shamp went to Vancouver and while there attended some Evangelical Gospel meetings. As a result of his conversion, he felt the need to go back to Poplar Valley and start something in the way of Gospel work there.

The important thing was to get a church building. So during the winter of 1938, he and his father and brothers and also Orrin Day and son, Don, got up the lumber. A piece of land, four miles west of Winfield, across from the Poplar Valley cemetery was donated by Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Clemmer. Mrs. Clemmer was a sister of Fred's mother, Mrs. Shamp.

By 1939, the church building, as a result of donated labour, was completed enough so that a Sunday School was started. It was started by Mrs. Orrin Day.

Student ministers came to assist from time to time for short periods, holding services, visiting, etc., but in the fall of 1939, Orville Williams, who felt called to Gospel work was invited to become pastor. As money was scarce in those days, he worked in the Shamp mill to support himself.

In December of 1940, he married Marjorie Day, but now the Second World War was on and in 1942 he rallied to the call of his country and joined the Signal Corp.

From then on, Mrs. Orrin Day carried on the Sunday School until the time would come that a regular pastor could be obtained.

It was not until 1948 that such a time came. It was then that Rev. Olaf Haug, a graduate of a Bible School in Saskatchewan and who had been pastoring a Pentecostal Holiness Church in Yakima, Washington felt led to come back to Alberta, as Bergen, Alberta was his home town.

He and a Mr. Smalley began travelling around holding Evangelistic meetings in small towns. Eventually they came to hold meetings in Winfield.

It was then that he was prevailed upon to take over the church in Poplar Valley. It was not until 1949, however, after much prayer and consideration, that he and Mrs. Haug decided to come as pastors.

They stayed at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Orrin Day until a parsonage was obtained. A house was finally moved to the church property and converted into a parsonage. So now both church and Sunday School were carried on. Rev. Haug worked very hard in a spiritual way among the people and was well liked. He visited and held prayer meetings in many homes until eventually a good sized congregation was built up.

In 1951, the pastor and congregation decided to organize, and so on Sept. 23 of that year and with Rev. McLean, Supt. of the Pentecostal Holiness Church (Canadian branch) present, they became a church of that denomination.

As time went on and the work expanded in other areas as well as locally, Rev. Haug and other ministers of the church decided they should have a camp meeting, so early in the spring of 1956, work was commenced to build a tabernacle. Again labour and time were donated by Rev. Haug and the congregation. Don Day and Rev. Haug were the main carpenters assisted by the late Rev. Kennedy who was at that time a missionary from Africa on furlough.

By the middle of summer the tabernacle, built in a quanset style, was ready for use. A second and smaller quanset building was erected to serve as dining hall and kitchen. And so the first camp meeting was held and turned out to be a great success. Their faith was rewarded.

Many young people came to this camp meeting and now Rev. Haug felt there should be a Bible School to train these young people for the future work of the church.

In 1957, the first building for the Bible school was started. This was a big project and needed much co-operation which the people gladly gave. Rev. Haug's theory was that the only way to get things done was to get out and do it. So he organized work bees on Saturdays and public holidays. The women brought food and people from other congregations came to help too, such as from Berrymoor, Calgary, Sundre and Bergen. In due time the building was ready to use.

The next consideration was the teachers. Rev. Haug felt that his was not a teaching ministry, but more of a pastoral or evangelistic type and that a minister should be called who felt led to this work and who had the qualifications. Such a man was Rev. Walter Gamble. He it was then, that was chosen to be the minister and principal of the Bible School.

Other teachers who were selected were Rev. Mabel Botting as Dean of Women and teacher and Rev. Gordon Rowe who taught mainly Bible courses. Rev. Rowe was a former missionary to China. A sidelight to his experience there, was that he was in a Japanese concentration camp for three years when Japan invaded China. Rev. G. A. Byurs became President of the school.

In 1960, the Bible School was officially opened and dedicated under the name of Foot-hills Bible Institute. The enrollment has been growing and the Bible School has been filling a great need in the church. As Rev. Gamble has often put it, the growth of the Church and the Bible Institute has been nothing short of a miracle and God's answer to the faith and prayers of the ministers and people involved.

In 1964, Rev. Mable Botting reached the age of retirement and Rev. Emma Crouch took her place as Dean of Women and also taught Missions and Christian Education. In 1965

Mrs. Vida Mason Bend came on staff as registrar, English teacher and Librarian. In 1967, Miss Donna Everett, a sister of Mrs. Crouch was added to the staff. Amongst other duties she took on the work of secretary of the Bible School, replacing Mrs. Orrin Day who had served so faithfully in this capacity and as secretary of the church for many years. Mrs. Day is still the Secretary of the church at this writing.

The cooks of the Bible School must also be mentioned. Those who have served in this capacity are: Mrs. Lillian Gamble, Mrs. Beatrice Cropley, Mrs. Nelson, Mrs. Hanna, Mrs. Dean and Mrs. Don Day. Mr. Don Day has been Dean of Men.

The next need of the Bible Institute Campus was a residence for the minister and Principal of the school, Rev. Gamble and family. As a result of donated labour of many of the church and the hard and steady work of Rev. Gamble himself, the parsonage was completed in 1962.

By now the congregation had outgrown the original church and a new one was much needed, so this was to be the next project.

The Guard Brothers who are involved in heavy equipment, cleared the land and excavated the basement. An architect from Ponoka, Mrs. Dickau, was engaged to make the plans for the church and did it for a very reasonable price. Mr. Wilfred Johnston from Blackfalds a contractor and construction Supt., assisted by his father, Clifford Johnston of Buck Lake, laid the blocks.

Money for material was obtained in the form of a loan from the head office of the Church in Franklin Springs, Georgia, U.S.A. The committee that planned all this was chairman, Don Day, Jim Guard, Larry Guard, Verle Guard, Mrs. Orrin Day, Mrs. H. Bryant and Rev. Walter Gamble.

The new church was completed by 1967 as it was a Centennial project and on Dec. 3 of that year the dedication was held.

The new church was filled to capacity for the occasion. Rev. Walter Gamble welcomed the congregation and visitors, many of whom came from long distances to be present at this opening.

Conference Supt. and President of the Bible Institute, Rev. F.P. Thomson, was the main speaker. Rev. Haug of Sundre delivered the Invocation. Mr. Wilfred Johnston, superintendent for the construction spoke briefly and handed over the keys to Rev. Gamble. Mr. Strochien, M. L.A. and County Councilor, Mr. Alex Danyluk, also brought greetings and good wishes on completion of the church. Rev. J.M. McLean, Conference Treasurer, pronounced the benediction.

As time goes on, further progress is planned as God leads the way. It is only for His Glory that what has been done, was done and may it so continue. May this church be a light house and a blessing to the community of Poplar Valley and surrounding area.

Mrs. Thelma Norman.

POPLAR VALLEY SCHOOL #4531.

The only record I found was in Wetaskiwin County. One teacher listed was - 1944 - E. L. Chinell.

JULIUS PORACZKY

Julius Poraczky and his wife came to the Buck Lake district from Calgary in 1930. They lived on their land until 1945, then moved to Windsor, Ontario. They had one child, Mary.

Mrs. Poraczky and Mary in front of their home at Buck Lake - 1946.



PROUDLY STORY

Melba and I came to Alder Flats by truck from Drumheller on June 13, 1942. After a flat tire on the inside dual wheel and stuck twice with lots of hungry mosquitos, we arrived at Mother's (Mrs. Clistie Nicoll's). Bert was a soldier, overseas in the Second World War. We lived in a little shack beside Mother's until we had a home built on an acreage I had bought from my mother's farm. Ronald Blades was very kind in building this and many neighbours helped in various ways. I really learnt how to split wood in those days. It does not take long if it's cold. We burned Drumheller coal on the prairie and it took a little time to remember to put wood in the stove before the fire went out. I'll always remember Percy Pye, as he always saw to it that we had a wood pile.



Mail courier from Winfield to the Flats in 40's. Bert Proudly with a nice haul from the Wolf River.

Melba was very sick so when she got home from the hospital, I purchased a Nanny goat from Goldie Anderson at Buck Lake. We really liked the good milk and also made butter, as I'd brought my little cream seperator from the prairie. But I didn't appreciate them getting out and following me to town.

Bert was raised in England until he was 14 years, when he came to Alberta. I was born in Ontario, came west to Alberta at the age of 2 years. Melba was born at Wayne, Alberta, about 18 miles down river from Drumheller. We were married at my home June 27, 1934 and lived on the home place until Bert joined the Armed Forces in 1941. He was a Kangaroo, drove a tank to take infantry to the front lines.

We enjoyed the beautiful green grass and the trees and flowers grew so easily, after being through the dirty thirties on the prairie. The dampness and rain in Alder Flats wasn't good for my health, and I had a great deal of pneumonia and then bronchitis.

The war years were busy ones, fixing our home, brushing the unwanted bush and very busy with Red Cross. Many P.J.'s, hand knitted socks and scarfs went out in parcels from Alder Flats. We sometimes had moose burger suppers to make money to buy material.

September 15, 1945, "his birthday", Bert arrived back from overseas, the war was over, but how they changed in those years. Bert worked for Andy Tjell in Leduc on the farm the first two years back. Then drove the mail truck from Alder Flats to Winfield for several years. He drove the first Alder Flats bus, a small one with seats along the sides, later got a 45 passenger. He then decided to be caretaker of Alder Flats new school with my help. He had many lovely flowers around the school.

In 1965, we moved from Alder Flats to Wetaskiwin.

Melba married Harvey Toombs from F.E.I., a driller on the oil rigs, and was widowed very young from a car accident, left with two small daughters, Connie, 2 years, and Heather, 1 year. On October 28th, 1960, she married Clare Clemmer. They have a daughter, Cathy, and a son, Scott, and are expecting an addition to their family in July 1971. They live at Wainwright on an acreage, where Clare operates oil batteries.

Gladys Proudley.

PERCY PYE

In the summer of 1933, Mr. Lyge Pye of Penhold drove Percy and Roy Pye and my dad, Mr. J. F. Speakman, to Alder Flats to look for homesteads. Roy found a quarter for himself and one for his wife but Percy and my Dad could not find homesteads. The country, by that time was about all taken up. They learned that farther north and west of the Surry line land could be leased for grazing. By taking a lease on 1½ sections, buildings and improvements could be made on one quarter section. My dad was working in the C.P.R. Depot in Edmonton as a ticket clerk and was going in with us on a ranching project. The trip back to Penhold was a rough one through Buck Lake and Pendryl. It had rained heavily and they really got a taste of Buck Lake mud. Miss Conroy was the District Nurse at Pendryl and she gave them a much appreciated cup of tea and lunch before they went on.

My dad made all the business arrangements with the government for the lease and on May 11, 1934, my former husband, Percy Pye, myself, our oldest son, Frank, 12, daughters Frances and Kathleen, 7 and 6, and son, Billy, 16 months, also my brother, Art Speakman, 17, started on our trip west. We loaded a team of horses, one cow and our bedding,

groceries, etc., and an iron heater into a big truck, then a Bennet wagon was hitched behind with the front wheels off the ground. We came as far as Buck Lake this way, where we stayed overnight in one of Bill Bohnings cabins. Next morning the truck driver went back and we started out. All the provisions, etc., were loaded into the triple wagon box with me driving the team and the three small children with me. The men and Frank came behind with the cow. When we got to the top of Siegel's Hill, I thought I had never seen such a steep hill and was mighty glad to get to the bottom. We reached Alder Flats early that evening. At that time there was a small log store and a cabin owned by Shannon and Shillabeer, this place was later bought by Carl and Marion Bohning who later built a larger building and operated the store until 1970. There was another building containing the Post Office and the home of Mr. Alfred Damant and family. Mr. Damant was the postmaster and also sold small hardware. The only other building was the log school house. We kept going west and half a mile west of John Forchuck's homestead, we took off into the bush. There were many trails as the ground was so wet that when one trail got impassable, another one was cut out. Several times one horse and the wagon got mired and we had to unhitch the other horse and hook onto the wagon tongue and pull horse and wagon out of the mud and swampy ground. We spent that night camped in the bush. Next morning, we started out again. Our destination was two miles west and seven and a half miles north of Alder Flats. We were met about four o'clock by Mr. Ed Velkjar who had a lease $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile south of where we were headed. He took part of our load on his wagon and we reached Velkjar's that evening where we were welcomed with a lovely hot meal.

Mr. Velkjar was squirrel hunting about 1939 and did not show up. There was a long search for him but he was not found for three years when a hunter's party came across his remains. Mrs. Velkjar is now Mrs. Sam Thibault. Her son, Hans, who married Iris Stowell now lives at Finchi Lake, B.C., where they have a tourist business.

Next morning we went on north to a flat on Wolfe Creek where we decided to build. The next six weeks were spent cutting and hauling logs, hauling slabs from Draders saw mill at Buck Lake, and putting up a log building, 16 feet by 32 feet for a house. This building had a dirt floor and a slab roof. The next spring we put in a slab floor and added two more rooms. Cooking was rather a problem. We slept in a tent and I cooked on a flat iron heater outside. I even learned to bake bread on the heater, by placing a large flat stone on top, turning the dish pan on top to keep the heat in.

When the house was covered in, Percy went back to Penhold for another load. He brought our daughter, Helen, 10, our furniture, two small puppies and a few hens in a hay rack. It took three days to get them from Penhold to within seven miles of where we lived and five days more to get the load the rest of the way, a small wagon box load at a time. My brother, Jack Speakman, came later on with Roy Pye and his brother-in-law, driving in our cattle.

Pye family returning home from Church service.

Roy settled three miles east and half mile south of Alder Flats on a $\frac{1}{4}$ section now owned by Albert Kellgren. Roy and his family moved to Wetaksiwin in about 1951.

Our first summer and fall was spent putting up a small barn, cutting and stacking what hay was handy and Percy made three more trips to Penhold. That winter was a hard one and we lost a lot of our cattle. Feed had to be hauled from as far away as Winfield by team and sleigh.

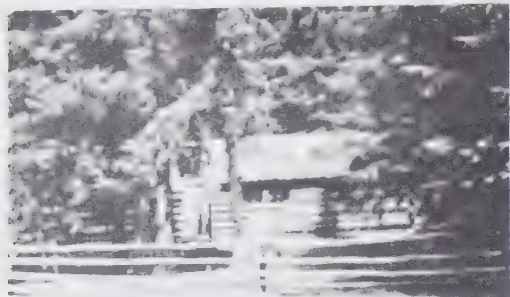
We lived there for three years. During this time Jack was married to Mary Todorovich, the daughter of a homestead neighbour. My mother died in Edmonton and Jack and Mary's oldest son and our daughter, Nellie, were born. I tried teaching the older children by correspondence but it got to be too much so we had to go where there was a school. Jack and Mary and their baby stayed down on the Wolfe. The school at Alder Flats was being taught by Mr. Thomas Sheridan.

In the fall of 1934 another store was built at Alder Flats by Gus Bjur and run by his son, Ivan, and daughter, Ines. A log cottage had been built for a District Nurse, who arrived in November. Her name was Marjorie Mains. Howard Stowell and his family moved in that fall and settled 4 miles south of Alder Flats.

In March 1937 we rented the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ 4-46-7-5 owned by Frances Kapler of Daysland, just one mile from Alder Flats and now owned by Mike Skrybalo. We lived there three years.

During this time our daughter, Patricia, and son, Gordon, were born. Then we bought the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ 5-46-7-5 from Mr. John Forchuck, built a house and moved west across the road from where we were. This farm is now owned by John Forchuck's son's brother-in-law.

During the 14 years we lived there our youngest son, David, was born. Frank, Helen, Frances and Kathleen were married.



Percy Pye homestead on Wolfe e
Creek - 1934

Alder Flats was a training station for District Nurses. A new one came every six months and they really were a wonderful lot of girls. Three of them liked our country (and our bachelors) so well that they married and stayed on. Joyce Thornton married Joe Bergquist, Barbara Ford married Allan Damant and another nurse, whose name I have forgotten, married Fred Dover. The last nurse was Mrs. Edwards and the cottage was closed in 1961. A new frame cottage had been built about 1945 and is now owned by Alex and Eleanor Danyluk.

World War Two saw a lot of our young men leave for overseas, Art Speakman and Frank Pye among them. The Red Cross group in Alder Flats was very active. We ran hamburger and coffee booth at the community picnics

during those years. One of our local hunters would get a moose or elk and this was all ground up into hamburger (by hand grinder) and sold at the picnics. The money was turned over to the Red Cross. Many pounds of wool were knitted into socks, gloves, sweaters, etc., and yards of goods made up into garments for hospitals.

In December 1938 when my brother Jack's second son was two months old, Jack was accidentally killed while out hunting. Mary moved up to Alder Flats and bought a $\frac{1}{2}$ section from Milton Batuik $\frac{1}{2}$ mile west and 1 mile south of Alder Flats in the fall of 1939. Then in 1943 she married my brother Art. They have three children and live on the place Mary bought. Later Art bought the quarter joining them on the south from Marquis Hagen.



Barn Building bee at Roy Pye's

About 1943 my dad, Mr. J. F. Speakman, retired from the C. P. R. and moved to Alder Flats. He lived at Art and Mary's for awhile, then with us for a couple of years. About 1949 he moved to a small house and lot at Alder Flats where he died tragically in a fire in 1960.

In November 1953, Alan Damant, who was postmaster then, asked me if I would take over the Post Office on trial for three months. I did, and we moved into the hamlet, my husband, Percy, taking on the janitor job at the school. By this time there was a new two room school.

That fall the oil business really started. In March 1954 I took on the Post Office permanently. In 1955 two more class rooms and a science room were added to the school and a school bus brought the children, living more than a mile away.

Percy was not very well and in June 1956 he had to give up the janitor job and I had to give up the Post Office as he became much worse.

The oil business had really boomed by then and there were so many new people coming and going that running the Post Office was a full time job. Mr. Richard Clemmer was the new Postmaster. He built a large new Post Office. The small buildings I had were not large enough. He sold it to Ben Jeffcott around 1966 and Ben is now the Postmaster.

In October 1956, we moved to the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ 5-46-7-5 which we were taking as a homestead lease. This place is now owned by Scottie Hare, my son-in-law. We lived there till 1962 when my daughter Helen and I started a small variety store business which we operated till January 1965. The building was then sold to the Canadian Legion Branch and they have a very nice Legion Hall.

The Bjur store is now a large supermarket owned and operated by Morris and Eileen Dunn. It had changed hands several times being owned by Phill Wennerstrom, Geo. Kohut, who built the new store, Ernie Lee, Allan Kohut and finally the Dunns who have built on and improved the building.

From a small place with 10 or 15 residents, Alder Flats is now a busy hamlet. Besides Dunns Mountain View Store, there is Danyluks General Store, Blades Service Station and Coffee Shop, an A. G. T. office, Seelys Esso Garage and Bulk Station, a Church, a fine modern school, teaching up to grade eleven with an auditorium, a large Community Centre and Curling Rink with 13 acres for Recreation. There are also many modern homes and a population of about 180. Four school buses are now in use.

Percy Pye died in March 1965. I moved to Wetaskiwin for a few years but could not stay away from this country. I am now married to Gilbert Siegel, youngest son of Wm. Siegel, one of the earliest settlers of Buck Lake. Gilbert's first wife died in January 1964. His son Earl is married and lives in Calgary where he has an electrical business and his daughter, Carol, works in the main branch of the Bank of Montreal in Calgary.

My two oldest sons, Frank and Bill and families, live out here, also daughters Helen (Mrs. John Haggart), Frances (Mrs. Elgin Nicolls), Nellie (Mrs. Scottie Hare) and families live on farms near Alder Flats. Kathleen (Mrs. Bill Kohut) and Patricia (Mrs. H. A. (Red) Howard) live near Wetaskiwin. Gordon lives at Smith, near Slave Lake and David and wife live at Ponoka.

Written by Mrs. Gilbert (Marjorie) Siegel. 1971.

MRS. EDNA PYE

We moved to Alder Flats from Penhold in June 1934. We really cannot answer item one as there were settlers many years before we came. I would believe that Mr. Damant and family would be among the first. We left our home at Penhold on May 28th, 1934 and arrived at Alder Flats district June 6th. It had been a lovely warm May month but it started to rain our first day on the move and continued to rain every day. We were halter broken to Alder Flats mud long before we got there.

Albert and Ivy Kellgren bought my husband's quarter where we made our home and they are still living there. My quarter was bought by the Bill Rings and I believe they still live there. Both quarters were the south-east quarters but I've forgotten the numbers.

We came from Penhold (Red Deer district). We had been trying to farm and pay for high priced land when the bottom fell out of the wheat market, so we decided to try pioneering again. We moved with 2 hayracks loaded with machinery and furniture, a covered wagon type Bennet buggy herded stock, and the kids and I came in the car. We usually tried to keep ahead of the rest and prepare meals, etc. Mud and rain were the biggest hindrance and hardship. We made all the mistakes in the books.

Our first home was a big log cabin. We stayed with Percy and Beatrice Damant while our cabin was being built also using our Bennet buggy. We built our next new home, a frame structure, in 1945. Albert and Ivy finished it and it is still their home.

The only postmaster we had at Alder Flats during our 12 years there was Mr. Damant. Mr. Damant also kept a little store and Messrs. Shillady and Shannon had a little store where Mrs. Bohning has been located for many years.

Our son and daughter (Snowden and Gwenn) attended school at Alder Flats, our old log building. We left before either new school was built. Agnes Stone from Westeros was teaching when we first arrived. I had the pleasure of meeting Agnes many years later here in Wetaskiwin. Also I remember Mrs. Ole Hauge. Here, also, I met her during our early years in town. She is now divorced from Ole and is a Mrs. Peach, living in Edmonton. I also remember Mrs. McBain. About three years ago, Mrs. McBain called on me. She had been teaching at Ardrossan (just east of Edmonton) for, I think she said, 23 years. These with Mr. Sheridan are about all I remember.

Homesteading in the bush was never farming for a number of years. Even at Alder Flats, the then and now are too far apart to be comparable. The first several months we used creek water, boiling it for drinking and household use. Then we dug a shallow well near a spring, and then a few months later again dug to a depth of about ninety feet. Then Mr. Siegel (Herman I believe) drilled, still in this hole and at about 37 feet struck a good supply of water. We used this well until we moved away.

Can't really recall prices, except know that I churned, printed butter and sold it for 15¢ a pound. Now it's about 70¢ only we use margarine.

We were three miles from the school, church and post office and stores. This was a handicap. Entertainment? School picnics or community picnics, the School Christmas concerts, dances in the old school or a home big enough, picnics by the river in the summer time, occasionally a box or shadow social or concert to raise money for the nurses residence or something such and that's about it.

I could write a book on this one. I believe the worst was the fire of about 1940 (even there I'm not sure of the date). Roy and the local men fought the fire all day to save our buildings, then had to rush away to fight another home, leaving Mrs. Minor and myself to patrol all night, putting out every fiery eye that winked at us.

We liked trees and built our home in their midst. A lovely wind break all right, but

a trap when a fire came. We had never experienced anything like this before. It was the tree roots or an old stump that we had to watch for and put out all night. Many encounters with wild animals and many causes for excitement or sadness. Don't know which to pick out. Again I believe it would or could fill a book.

Mrs. Edna Pye.

OLE QUAM

During the years 1925 to 1929, Ole worked for Etter-McDougall lumber Co. at Sheer, B.C. At this time we were living on our farm at Tomahawk, Alta. In 1934 we sold our farm and moved to Winfield where Ole was again employed by Etter-McDougall as a lumber grader, he continued at this work until the operation terminated in 1952.

We have two children - Ole Jr., he has one girl and two boys, they live at Dunster, B.C. - and Elsie of Buck Lake, she has two girls and two boys.

From 1956 to 1964, we lived at Tete Jaune Cache working for Paul Moseson at the lumber yard. We are now retired and living in Winfield among some of the friends we made many years ago.

Submitted by Mrs. Ole Quam, Sr. - 1972.

CHARLIE AND RUBY QUINN

Charlie was born in Ontario and came west sixty years ago to Edmonton. Approximately in 1938 he came to Buck Lake. Mr. Chappel was a rat rancher. Charlie worked on this project on land, NW2-46-6-W5. When this project terminated, he became a sheep rancher until his retirement to Calgary in 1968. He passed away August 30, 1971 at the age of 96 years 11 months.

There are three children, Rhoda, married to Henry Larsson. They have two children. They live in Edmonton. Audrey married Bill Donald. They have two girls and they live in Cranbrook, B.C. Charlie is married and they have one girl. They live in Edmonton.

Mrs. Quinn lives in Calgary in retirement. During her years at Buck Lake, she was an active member of the Ladies Circle and was always on the "job" at the Buck Lake Stampede.

THE RUDOLPH RATHGEBER FAMILY by William Rathgeber

In 1925, we were a family of ten kids and my Mother and Father living on the outskirts of Medicine Hat. We had a market garden, and my Dad worked in the coal mine. In the fall of 1925 he decided to come to Winfield to work in Mr. Sanford Nelsons sawmill. The two oldest boys, Jake and John, came with him. In March of 1926, the rest of the family came by train as far as Hoadley, which was the end of the line. From there we came by horses and sleigh to Mr. Nelson's mill.

My Dad skidded logs to the mill with horses while the mill was sawing. John sawed the logs, and Jake fired the mill. Ralph drove horses and hauled lumber for Mr. Nelson. I, Bill, packed shingles in the shingle mill. We all piled lumber at one time or another.

We lived at the mill until July when we moved to the farm. The farm is still in the family, and is the SE¹ 4-47-3-W5. I guess my folks must have come here to get away from the city.

Our house on the farm was a house built of lumber, but the shingles were in bad shape, and after a heavy rain your shoes might be floating on the floor. You could see a few stars through the roof too. We kids sleeping upstairs were not too warm the first winter.

Our Post Office was at Yeoford, and J.P. Nowells was the Post Master and early storekeeper. The school was the Modeste Valley School (later changed to Wenham Valley School), and our first teacher was Miss Fear. We walked two miles to school down through a cold swampy valley.

Our first store was at Nelson's mill, about five miles west of our home. Then we went to the Yeoford store which was six miles east of our home. We had no horses so we either carried our groceries home or caught a ride with the neighbours.

Our early neighbours were Skoglunds, DeWitts, Collissons, Penleys, Fowlers, Murfitts, Bunneys, Myers, Ginthers, MacLaughlins, Gillies, Nicholsons, Bowmans and many more. We had a lot of neighbours in the early days.

Farming conditions were very much different in those days. There were large burnt off areas that had an abundance of grass and many big logs lying around on it. The land had

been burnt over in earlier days. The logs were used for firewood, sawing them up by hand with crosscut saws, and carrying them home. There was free range for our livestock, so we only had to grow our winters feed for the stock. In the fall some of the farmers turned their extra work horses out on the range and gathered them up in the spring for work again.

The rest of the land had good spruce and pine timber on it. The sawmills and the building of the railroad made a good market for hay, oats and vegetables.

We had plenty of moose and deer, and nearly every kid and his Pa were trappers. Most of this country should have been reseeded to spruce and pine as it was sawed off, and kept for timber and wildlife.

Our water supply was a spring about a quarter of a mile away from the house. We carried water from there to start with and later hauled it from there with a horse and a stone boat. We got water from the spring for ten years. In 1936 we had a well drilled at the yard. One day I (Bill) was going for water with the stone boat and I put the baby in the water barrel for a ride, as we always had one of them around. As we were going along, a stick caught in the singletree and away went the horse, but it soon lost the barrel and baby. In summer time we carried the milk down to the spring to cool, and let the cream set on top of the milk. In the evening or the next morning, we would carry it up to the house for my Mother to skim off the cream for churning into butter. Then carry the cream back to the spring to keep it sweet. When we moved up here from Medicine Hat there were six boys and four girls in the family. The boys were Jake, John, Ralph, Fred, William and Adolph. The girls were Minnie, Margaret, Pauline and Mary was the baby. Two more little brothers were born after we had been here a while. They are Alfred and Merton.

Flour, sugar and groceries were very cheap. You could buy a pair of leather mitts for up to forty-five cents a pair. Wages were very low too. I (Bill) was working hard ten hours a day in the drywood business at Norbuck for fifty cents a day or three dollars a week if I didn't buy a chocolate bar. We were chopping down big dry trees with an axe and hauling them to Norbuck where we sawed them into blocks of wood and loaded them into the boxcar on the siding at Norbuck.

We were a long way from a Doctor, about fifty miles, with bad roads most of the way, which was a great disadvantage. The flies and mosquitoes were very bad too. You had to make a smudge for yourself and the livestock too.

Entertainments were dances at the community halls and the school houses. When the school let out at the end of June there was a community picnic that everyone went to. The one big event during the winter was the school concert which everyone attended.

Jake worked around Winfield in some of the lumber mills. Adolph worked clearing land with Draders outfit around the country. Adolph and I had a breaking outfit that we did custom breaking with. We broke land for Mr. Leonard Erickson on the farm now owned by Henry Bryant, and many more people around the country. Mother kept a few cows and chickens and when there were quite a few of the boys at home we kept some pigs too. Also grew a quantity of vegetables that were sold to the mills at Norbuck.

We had had snow storms at times but on account of so much timber we had very little wind. There were bad forest fires, one of the worst being in the spring of 1939. Another tragedy, when most of the town of Winfield burned. Another big timber fire burned Art Burrows mill, lumber and planer at Norbuck. A lot of lumber at Frasers burned and most of the houses and wood sawing equipment at Norbuck was lost also.

We boys cleared most of the fields at home by hand. My mother grew a big garden every year. There was an abundance of wild fruit which we picked and canned for winter use.

John went back to Blackie where he farmed with a partner for a time. Then he had a farm of his own. He married a widow when he was near middle-aged. John died a few years ago from cancer. His widow works for construction companies, but still retains John's farm. Jake went to Turner Valley and worked in the oilfields there. He served several years in the army and is now working on the staff of the Banff Springs Hotel. Fred worked at lumber camps around Breton and Antross, then moved to B. C. where he is now working at Parsons in a sawmill. Jake and Fred are bachelors.

Adolph married Myrtle Dewar. He worked at the mills west of Winfield until the timber was finished. They moved to Wetaskiwin where he worked for the county for a summer. Then went to Tete Jaune Cache and worked for Carrols mill. Now they are living at Creston, B. C. where Adolph works in a lumber camp. They have two children, a boy and a girl. Their boy is the oldest, he is married and has a baby son of his own. Their daughter, Donna, is still attending high school at Creston.

Ralph went back to the prairie and has worked on cattle ranches ever since. He never got married.

Alfred married a girl from Three Hills. They are now living at Creston, B.C. where Alfred is sawyer in a lumber camp. They have three girls who are going to school in Creston.

Minnie married Merton Murfitt of Yeoford and they farmed in the district until the time of Mirts death. Now Minnie lives in a small cottage in the yard of her one daughter at Wetaskiwin. They had four children, three girls and one boy. The children are all married and have children of their own. Her oldest daughter is a grandmother already.

Margaret married Delos Linton and had two boys and one girl. Margaret died a few years ago. Mary went down south to work. She worked in a glass factory at Redcliff for a time then she married Alfred Tobler, a rancher at Patricia where they still live. They have three boys. One is a rancher like his Dad, the second one is in the U.S. Army and is in Germany at present. The youngest boy is working in a garage.

Pauline married George Doel. They are living at Rosedale and have five children. Their eldest daughter is training to be a nurse in Calgary. The rest of their children are attending school at Drumbheller. George is a partner in the Fish Lake Sand and Gravel Co. They also sell ready mix cement.

I, William, married Effie Bowman. We have a boy and a girl. They go to Winfield School. We farm near Yeoford. Merton married a divorcee with six children. They live on the old home farm and raise pigs and grain.

My mother and father passed away quite a few years ago.

THE WILLIAM RATHGEBER STORY by Effie Rathgeber

Bill Rathgeber and I (Effie Bowman) were married in December of 1950, at my mother's home with the Reverend J. A. Wingblade the minister. We had only a small wedding with just our relatives present. We took up residence on Bill's farm that he bought some time before from the C.P.R. when their land was sold in this area. Bill had the west half of Section 3, T47, R. 3, W. 5. and the north east quarter of the same section that he had bought from Mrs. Bunney. We started out with three cows and two heifers and a team of skid horses.

Our first home was a two roomed cottage Bill had bought from Calvin Durant in Winfield. Mr. A. Brown moved it out to the farm on his truck. When the county was selling the rural schools we bought the Wenham Valley school and have now made it into our home.

During the winter months after we were married, Bill went to work in the lumber camps. He cut logs with either Mert or Alfred until the logging was finished out west of Winfield. They worked as far west as the Brazeau River. When the logging was done Bill worked two winters at Rocky Mountain House cutting and skidding logs. He came home every two weeks. While out west they'd be home every weekend. One time when he was cutting logs at Carrols a falling tree came down and broke several of his ribs. So he was home for a while.

One winter he went up to Smith to work for Bergstrom. He took his horses up there and skidded logs. He went in November and came home in March, only coming home for Christmas and once in January to change skid horses. He enjoyed working in the bush and would go back now if there was work close at hand and we didn't have so many animals on the farm.

We grow hay as our main crop. Our land is too low to depend on grain ripening. So we keep dairy cattle to eat the hay and to bring our living. There are between sixty and seventy head of cattle at all times. At times we milk up to forty. We ship milk to the Carnation Milk Plant at Wetaskiwin. Many of our calves are sold as there would be too many if all were kept. We are cross-breeding Holstein with Brown Swiss and are getting some brown colored calves.

When we first started farming here we cut and raked the hay with horse drawn machinery. Bill had a farmhand on the tractor to stack the hay. It was often quite a job to get someone to stack. An elderly man by the name of Leonard Erickson often came to help us. His heart got so bad he couldn't do much work. A few years later he passed away. Milton Asqew, a bachelor, also helped with haying, and kept an eye on Johnny (our boy) when we were milking at evening time.

We started milking cows by hand but in a few years we bought machines, and shipped milk to the Carnation plant in Wetaskiwin and have continued pretty well ever since.

We have two children, a boy of fifteen and a girl of eleven. They both go to school at Winfield, where John is in grade nine and Julie is in grade six. Both are fond of animals

They have pet cats, dogs and a little pony they ride and make a fuss over.

One winter we had a lot of snow and the traffic had to go through our yard to get on top of the hill. When we first were married there was a rural mail delivery from Winfield to Wenham Valley. Mr. Lachance was the mailman. He hauled our cream and brought out the mail. Later, the Bluffton cream truck came and picked up our cream as well as the rest of the neighbours cream.

The highway (the old Number 19) helped to open up the country.

A rural telephone mutual was organized which kept people more in touch with each other. Soon Calgary Power started a Mutual to provide electricity to the rural population. It was a great benefit, as it eased many a workload on the farm and provided good light in the homes. Now we have the underground telephone which unites a good many people more than the older line did.

Our closest neighbours are Skoglunds, Penleys, Collissons and in more recent years, Sam Wheales family, Joe Imbery and family, the Grovers, Harry Hastings, Mrs. Duncan and the Ray Matthew family. For a time Ruth Malmas was a close neighbour and many times I have been there for a cup of tea. Godfrey still lives on the farm, but Ruth lives at Innisfail. We would ride down to Yeoford to get the mail when the men were out working. Now there are some newcomers that have come in, the Williamsons and Hochs. Murfitts and Bunneys and Eliotts are neighbours though a bit further away.

One of the most tragic years we had was the year that my Grandmother, Bills Mother, and my sister all died within a month of each other.

We carried water from a spring down below the house for quite a few years. Then we drilled a well at the barn and carried water from there in the winter and used the spring in the summer. Now we have a well by the house and water under pressure inside.

Our closest store is at Yeoford. It has changed hands many times in the last few years. We have a rural mail delivery too. Until a few years ago we had a Post Office also.

JOHN RAUCHERT

Somewhere around 1921, my father went west to look for a homestead. At that time the townsite of Winfield was up for homesteading but he passed it up as being too side-hill and finally settled on a quarter about one mile from the present town. We moved to Knob Hill onto the J. Mier farm in 1924 while finishing up the house. We moved by wagon via Battle Lake and Nowells Store at Yeoford. At Knob Hill at that time there was a small store, post office, Seattle School and a community hall under construction.

I took a job freighting with four horses for Dutton and Mannix Construction who were putting in the railroad with horse power. I was freighting oats from Falun to Winfield with grain tank and four horses and dumped the tank over Battle Lake Hill. Got the horses and tank up and had to pick up the oats with buckets and carry it up hill and dump it into the tank.

In 1927 I got the first well drilling machine in the area and the first well I drilled was at the Seattle School, then Knob Hill sawmill which had operated there since 1923. After that I drilled throughout the country and even put the water in the Winfield Hotel.

Ernie Rossiter and I went out on a hunting trip. It was 30 degrees below. We took a team and stoneboat, a gun and salt to the McDonald Timber (later McDougalls) and threw up a shack as base. Well, we had no luck and came back still in 30 degree below weather.

In 1944 I moved my family to Revelstoke, B. C. and stayed there for twenty-five years. Now I am living in semi-retirement on a ranch near Bluffton raising some cattle just to keep from getting rusty.

John Rauchert.

JACK SR. AND SOPHIE RAULSTON

Jack Sr. and Sophie Raulston lived at Wenham Valley with their two children, Jack and Frances. Upon leaving, they settled at Crystal Springs. Sophie also was correspondent for the Wetaskiwin Times for both areas and Yeoford and Battle Lake in between for some time. Jack was in the army and served as Staff Sergeant. He retired from the regular army June 30th, 1960. He rejoined the Security Service for a few years and passed away in Edmonton in the late 1960's. His wife, Ruby, and family still reside in or near Edmonton. Frances married Jack Geddes and they have four children, Patsy, Sharon, Gary and Bob.



Sophie Raulston who lived at Wenham Valley. She was a as a reporter for Wetaskiwin Times since 1932.

TOM AND OLGA REAY

Tom and Olga Reay came from Dorenlee, Alberta. They arrived in the district in July and August of 1939. Land location - SE 20-46-4-5. They bought from Smith (Elmer Smith homestead).

Settled here - as traded farm at Dorenlee, that had some land cleared and small house with only one payment made, for clear title to place at Winfield which looked good in the hungry thirties. Tom went out with team and wagon in July. I followed in August with a truck load of cattle and furniture on rack above cattle.

Our first home was made of lumber. Post Office in same location. Postmaster was a Mr. Ted Reed. School was Foplar Valley. The general store was owned and operated by Mrs. Sabn. Hardware, Alfred Engler.

Close neighbours - Clemmers, Walshes, Janke, Herman Bros., Campbells.

Bill Johnson had a Ford car which he used to take any one needing to go to see the nurse or out to Wetaskiwin or Rimbey in case of sickness or business. Farming was done with horses and no one seemed to mind as we were all farming the same way.

Water - first winter to spring, hauled water for stock and house from Janke's a mile away. Drilled our own well in the summer of 1940. We got an artesian well. Drilled one for Clemmers after, and also got them an artesian well. Work of drilling was all done by hand will, pump action, by means of rope, pulleys and handle.

Price of articles - sold butter for 25¢ a pound, could buy 4 pounds of prunes for 25¢ also 4 pounds of raisins for 25¢.

Entertainment - dances and Christmas concerts at different schools around Christmas time.

Had one bad fire set by Mynor Campbell accidentally. Fought fire all afternoon. Had the help of Charley and Dick Clemmer. Change of wind in evening saved the buildings. In August 1955 had a big black bear come into the house and help himself to milk and sugar, was shot by Tom, after I scared it out of the house.

Life then was sure peaceful, always had time to go visit a neighbour at least once a week. Either walked or went with horses and rig.

We brought the first grinding outfit to Winfield and did custom grinding. People came as far as twenty or more miles.

Tom worked at Shamps mill so I did the grinding. Sometimes I'd get up at 5 a.m., there would be a load of grain to grind. Some nights I was still grinding at 11 p.m.

Had to milk a cow and then run out and see if all was well at the grinding outfit. If women brought the grain then I had to do the shovelling. It was hard work but seemed everyone was doing the same and no one complained.

In 1965 we sold out to Carl Maciborski and now make our home at Ponoka.

1966 - RECREATION CENTRE - WINFIELD

Public meetings were held in 1966 and 1967 to establish community support and find ways of raising sums of money for a recreation centre. It was decided that a hall was needed the most so this became the project. Guest speakers from the Department of Youth attended several meetings.

In 1967, a Recreation Committee representing all different areas and clubs such as Lion's, Legion, Chamber of Commerce, Home and School, F.U.A., Conroy Club, Yeoford



Second Walkathon - Hon. Grant McEwan starting out with some of the boys.



This is the beginning of the hall - 1971



The Pot Luck Supper - March 1972



Side view of the Flat



Front view - still under construction.

Ladies Club and 4H was set up to work toward building a Recreation Centre on the 4H grounds.

In March 1968, a delegation along with Mr. Strochein, sent up to Edmonton to see Hon. R. Clark regarding the possibility of obtaining a Capital expenditure grant from the Department of Youth.

In May, representatives met with the county, the Department of Youth and Battle River Planning Commission at the county office from which resulted the appointment of a county recreation committee.

In December of 1968, at a committee meeting, it was decided that the committee must become an active group and begin by raising funds which are to be held in trust by the Lion's Club.

A public meeting was held January 25th at temperatures of 32 to 38 below with over 60 people in attendance. A motion was passed at this meeting to begin working immediately toward the hall and service area of the recreation centre and to keep working until we have an adjoining skating rink covered, and the curling rink in the complex also.

A motion was also made that we sell pledges valued at \$20.00, and advertising.

To date we have raised:

\$900.00	with pledges
265.00	from bingo held
	March 28
835.00	advertising and
	donations
3,040.00	Walkathon Apr. 26
1,000.00	pledge from the R.
	E. A. at their annual
	meeting.

The community spirit and enthusiasm for the entire project is unbelievable. Every organization in the area from Maywood to Yeoford and some east of here is either working on a project for the recreation committee or co-sponsoring one with them.

The 4H Clubs are sponsoring a queen contest in aid of the Rec. building fund. Another bingo is planned early this fall. A sportsman's dinner is planned for May 30 with proceeds going for recreation but not necessarily to the building fund. The Lion's Club is sponsoring a wrestling match this fall with proceeds for the building fund. A buggy raffle is planned for the summer months. We feel that some of our young people and the district would benefit from leadership training so plan to send someone to a summer course.

In April 1971 everything was ready BUT NO BUILDING HERMIT. Had to wait until July for it. By this time all the bids we had received in the spring were void.

The pilings were put in - then volunteers built the grade beam forms and poured them. The block work and joists were done by contract - back to the volunteers for the roof, who worked with the weather against them and winds blowing down their necks, to get the building covered in. October 26th, "Walk for the Roof", a beautiful fall day, ideal for walking. The next morning winter was upon us with 4 inches of snow AND blowing. Work stopped and it looked like termination of the project until spring. Along came a thaw - the Labour Incentive Grant! It got a little cool once in a while but with a warming trend like



Hon. Grant McEwan and children ready to start walking - Walkathon - starting out



Walking along the route

"steady work", it progressed rapidly, cold weather or not. By the third week in February, the furnaces were put in and now the men worked in comfort.

On March 18th, the unofficial community opening was held with over 300 people at the "Pot Luck Supper" and another 150 at the dance.

In April a crew went to work to salvage the material in the old curling rink. Another crew had cut lumber for the skating rink. With luck, the curling rink and outdoor skating will be finished by the end of May.

This has been a total community effort and shows what cooperation and determination can build.

Size of the hall is 48' x 113' with upper meeting room above the mezzanine with floor space of approximately 47' x 40'.



Travelling Bathroom service. In foreground - the wheel barrow team and rider.

THE REID FAMILY COMES TO WENHAM VALLEY by John Reid, Jr.

In the fall of 1929 my Father, John Reid Senior, came to the Wenham Valley district to visit his aunt, Charolott Goodhand, and her son, Edward. Dad came out to hunt.

In the fall of 1930, on the twenty second of November, the whole Reid family moved from Heisler to Wenham Valley. We came to stay with Uncle Ed Elliot (as everyone called him). With my Dad were his wife and five children. There were three boys and two girls. John was the eldest, Clarence and Walter were the other two boys. The girls were Mary and Alma. We came from Heisler to look for a place to live as where we were we had nothing.



The morning after the fire - 1935
Alfie Snells place now.

A fellow with a 1928 one and a half ton truck moved us here. We sure had a big load on the truck with the bed-springs on end outside the box of the truck. A bookcase and a mattress were on top of the cab. We had a trailer on behind the truck too. Old Daddy Nowell, the storekeeper and Postmaster at Yeoford at that time, said he had never seen a load like that before. We lived in a two room shack of frame construction.

After two years we moved onto the Jones place, the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ 10-47-3-W5. Our closest post office was at Dan Nicholsons, Wenham Valley Post Office. Wenham Valley School was our closest school too. Glen Carmichael and Miss Husband were the first teachers when we came.

We stayed at the Jones place for two years, then we moved to the Mason farm, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ 2-47-3-W5. We lived there until the spring of 1935 when we rented the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ 21-47-3-W5. From here my sister, Mary, went to work in B.C. During the winter months we boys would go to work at one of the various lumber camps in the area. In the summer we would work for the farmers in the district. We used to help with the haying at Bunney's on their flats. We also helped clear land, plant crops with horse drawn machinery and pitch hay with hay forks.

In the winter of 1940, I (John Reid, Jr.), bought the old Impey place, S $\frac{1}{2}$ 19-47-3-W5. My sister, Mary, married Ken Jamieson in 1939.

In 1941 John Jr. married Lillian Hunter. Clarence went to work in the mines at Drum-

heller. Alma married a local boy, Don Gillies, in April of 1942. Walter married Sophie Bernes in 1943. Clarence went overseas in the second world war and married an English girl.

Some of our first neighbours were Archie Gillies, Jap Bunney and John Wheale Sr. Dan Nicholsons had a small store along with the Post Office where you could buy Mac's Best Flour for two-fifty a hundred weight. A half a pound of tobacco cost fifty cents. A bigger store was at Breton, about ten miles away.

Not many of the farmers had much farming, just a few acres at first and not much machinery. There were no brush cutters in those days and no one could afford to hire them if there had been. So land clearing was all done by hand with horses to pull the stumps after you had grubbed all the roots loose.



Left to right - top row - Erling Wold, Malcolm Nicholson, Ray Wold, Peggy Shepherd, Mary Reid, Alma Reid, Clarence Reid, Mona Shepherd.

Bottom row - Kris Brendan, John Reid, Collen Gillies, Bill Shepherd, Walter Reid, Don Gillies at Wenhan Valley School.

The water supply came from hand dug wells or else springs of which there were several good ones in the area.

Entertainment was mostly dances, which in the first years cost twenty-five cents for the dance and the lunch. Sometimes in the winter you could go in the sleigh box drawn by a team of horses up to ten miles to a dance at Fort Creel, Edmont, Breton or Winfield.

In the fall of 1948, John Reid Sr. and his wife retired to the town of Breton. In 1952 I, John F. Reid, moved to the town of Breton where I worked for the D. R. Fraser Lumber Company. In 1956, I moved to Bentley where I still live. I worked in the creamery there until 1964.

For several years I was the Watkins dealer back in the Wenham Valley area. I have four children, Jessie, Gladys, Doreen and Tom. Clarence has one son. Walter has a boy and a girl. Mary has one girl. Alma has a boy and a girl. My three girls live in Red Deer. They are all married and have several children. My son is still at home. Clarence lives at Alberni, B. C. as does his son. Walter is at Onoway, his son at Eckville, his daughter is at Edmonton. Mary lives at Dauphin, Manitoba, her

daughter is in Edmonton. Alma lives in Breton where Don has a carpenter business, their daughter, Wendy, is in Edmonton, and at present their son, Brian, is at home, during the summer months he works quite a lot on construction jobs.

In the spring of 1950, in March, we had a terrible storm that closed all the roads to town. Our Tommy was one or two years old at the time. He took terrible sick so we started to town with him. There was a terrible drift before we got to the road. The horses got down in the drift so I had to shovel to get them on their feet. We went another half mile and the snow was deeper. I had to unhook the horses to get them up. I caught one and rode it home with Tommy wrapped in a blanket, the rest walked home. The next day we took another trail through the bush to town.

Life in the early days was much different than today. No one had any money. You were always welcome at any time whether it was meal time or not. Every one was equal. While today, people travel with cars and get further away. Lots of them don't know their next door neighbour. Now there are the upper and lower classes also. In the early times people travelled with their teams and wagons or sleighs and usually spent all day at a neighbours place when they came. The ladies would get together for quilting bees whenever a girl of the community was getting married. A shower for the bride-to-be was held at one of the neighbours homes where young and old alike gathered for an evening out. The men came along for an evening of fun too.

RICE BROTHERS

Oscar and Elmer Rice came to the Pendrel district in the spring of 1930. They came from Washington State in a Chev coupe car. Oscar had been doing carpenter work there but when the crash came in 1929 there was no longer work for that type of carpentry.

Their homesteads were located on the east side of Buck Lake. Elmer's land joined the Calhoun quarter on the east, 19-46--5-W5, and Oscar's was the NW 20-46--5-W5. The house where they lived was on Elmer's land and the barn on Oscar's.

Due to Elmer's artificial leg, he was usually the cook. I can remember coming up to the door one day and I thought I heard voices and thinking there was company, I tied up

my horse and walked up to the door, just as Elmer opened the oven door to see how the bread was baking; it was as black as your boot and a cloud of smoke poured out, he was giving that stove quite a lecture out loud. I can't say I blame him as it was one of those thin metal types they used for camping in tents. It was impossible to govern the fire for baking bread. It might have been suitable for biscuits. Once when we were there for supper, Elmer was preparing turnips. He said, "I'll cut them up small and they will cook faster". It took him so long to cut them small, that I'm sure they could have been cooked. However, they could both cook real good.

Elmer didn't homestead until August 21st, 1931. This was through a sub-agency at Yeoford, a man by the name of A. C. Gillies. The price for the land was a fee of \$10.00.

Elmer passed away the 11th of May 1946 on a boat called the Lillian D somewhere near the Queen Charlotte Islands. During the war years he was frozen to his job on this boat.

Oscar left here in the 1940's. He took up his trade as a carpenter once again and continued for nineteen years. Then he bought a farm near Falun. He found it too hard to manage by himself. He decided to sell it and his homestead. At present, he resides at Abbotsford, B. C. He had one daughter (Evelyn) who lives about 40 miles away at Bellingham, Washington, and several grandchildren.

Elmer had a wood-sawing outfit and he used to drive all over in the area sawing peoples winter wood supplies. The boys had a big team of blacks called Darkie and Nig weighing about sixteen hundred a piece. They were both dependable and worked well together. Later Art Jackson bought the team.

Norman Dunn owns Oscar's place now and I have Elmer's.

Actually the boys only lived here for about ten years. They both worked for the Bear-Creek Mill situated just west of them on the Lake shore of Buck Lake.

Both were born at Kelowna, B. C.

By Elva Johnson.

ISRAEL RIVERS

Mr. and Mrs. Israel Rivers came from Washington, U.S.A. in 1933 to the Wilmot District (known as Crestomere now). Mr. Rivers worked in the harvest field that fall, until he got blood poisoning in his hand, and had to spend a week in the Rimbey Hospital. After Christmas, he went to Pigeon Lake to work in Ed Snell's logging camp. Mrs. Rivers and family joined him the next summer, living at Battle Lake.



Back: Israel Rivers, Eddy,
Mrs. Rivers. Front: Rita
and Robert.

In the early spring of 1935, Israel went to work for Emil Letourneau's logging camp at Pendryl, where they lived until 1938, then moving to Antross where he worked for Anthony Bros. logging camp. In 1939, they moved ten miles west of Breton into Carroll Bros. logging camp, where he and son, Eddie, cut logs. They got their food supplies, by the mail man, Mr. Bathgate, hauling the mail and freight with wagon and horses from Breton to Buck Creek. In those days, we did a lot of walking as we hadn't any car and many a pack sack of groceries Israel packed home.

The fall of 1940, the family moved to Norbuck so that the children could attend school. They had been taking correspondence courses.

By this time, Israel and Eddie were working for Carroll Bros. logging camp west of Alder Flats. The family moved to Buck Lake in December 1941, later settling on the Wm. Siegel place, SE 5-46-6-W5, where they still reside. The children attended Buck Lake school. Teachers were Mrs. Doyle, Mr. MacDonald and Miss King.

Israel passed away in 1968. They had three children. Eddie living at home; Rita married Roy Parker, have three children - Mary, Richard and Debra. Robert joined the R. C. M. P. in 1954 and married Astrid Wallenstein at Salmon Arm, B. C. in 1959. They have four children, Roberta, Deanne, Larry and Ryan. He was stationed in B. C. until January 1, 1971, now he is stationed in Ottawa, Ontario.



Israel and Eddie Rivers - 1940.

RUNDLE'S MISSION

In 1840, a young Cornishman named Robert Rundle left England and arrived at the Hudson Bay's Fort Edmonton in September. He visited constantly amongst the Indian encampments and fur forts. In his love for the Western peoples, he was distressed at the frequent starvation of people entirely dependant upon game and native vegetation. He determined to grow a garden, sharing with his people the Good News of the Providence of God through agriculture. His first effort on the Battle River failed. In 1847, he brought Benjamin Sinclair from Norway House to be a preacher and a farmer and a teacher.

Sinclair chose the N. W. tip of Pigeon Lake as the most favorable spot for the purpose and thus began the first Protestant Mission in all the land west of the Red River Settlement. Sinclair began his work in October of 1847 settling in with a wife and baby to prepare for the first winter. After a few years in which he had erected four buildings, cultivated a few acres and secured lumber for a church, his men were massacred and he decided to move to the more secluded area of Lac la Biche.

In 1855, the missionaries returned. One of the old buildings was partially restored, but recurring hostilities defeated his purpose and once again the mission was silent and waiting.

In the spring of 1865, John McDougall, newly married, was appointed by his father to re-open the Pigeon Lake Mission. The wheels of his cart taking his goods to Pigeon Lake were the first wheels to roll anywhere southwest of Edmonton. And what a honeymoon trip it turned out to be! The party of five were caught in a heavy snow storm. Before they could break camp, three of the party developed the measles, a dangerous epidemic, when their only medicine was cayenne pepper. Surrounded by spring snow and water, the two active men were hard put to make camp, keep up fires, and find enough food for the sick ones, but a week later they were on the spot of Rundles mission and ready to begin making their home and interpreting the Gospel to visiting bands of Indian.

John's wife died in the spring of 1871, so that his final year at Pigeon Lake with his three infant daughters, were marked by sorrow and loneliness. He remarried in September of the following year while visiting Ontario. They left Winnipeg by buckboard to drive to Pigeon Lake - John's second honeymoon trip.

In 1873, John with his family and goods, moved to open the Morley Mission and to begin a new chapter in the south. Along with his years of experience, his family and his equipment, he took twelve cows and a bull - the first herd of beef cattle to enter southern Alberta.

The mission remained active until 1906 by which time the treaties had been signed with the Indian peoples, the reserves established, and the lands settled by white men.

The story of the Pigeon Lake Mission was not widely known but in 1900 Robert Dowler visited the old site and was so taken with it that years later he secured title to the land, and there made his home.

In the summer of 1956, Mr. Paul Moseson suggested the erection of a Memorial retreat building on the site. The various interested parties were drawn together and incorporated into the Rundle's Mission Society and have acquired almost 10 acres of land, erected a Lodge and prepared for the active progress by which the present generations may be enabled to draw inspiration from the hallowed acres on which the Gospel first took root in this land.

T. J. RUPERTUS as told to Betty Bunney

Joe Rupertus was born and raised in the Wetaskiwin area. When he was 21, he filed on a homestead 45 miles north east of Lloydminster but let it go before too long. He drove truck from Dawson Creek, B. C. to Whitehorse, Yukon, carrying supplies to replace the wooden bridges built during the World War Two. On these trips they had to carry a tin of gasoline, dry kindling, matches, and axe with instructions that if they were stranded the first thing they were to do was get a fire started to keep the wolves away at night and to keep warm. They were to cut wood from the roadside to keep the fire going. However, they couldn't plan breakdowns and the truck broke down. Joe's truck quit on him. He hurried to get his fire going and was trying to get a fire going enough to bluff the howling wolves long enough to get wood for his fire for the night, when a couple of Army boys came along. With out persuasion, he gladly pumped it up and then rode to the nearest service station about 25 miles further on. He also drove truck hauling gravel for the Nisku Airport Runways. During his years at Whitehorse, he bought a new 1940 International Half Ton truck which to

this day is faithfully taking him wherever he chooses to go and has only had one small minor repair.

In 1958, Joe came to the Yeoford area purchasing the SE 16-47-2-W5, and went to farming. Many friends told him he wouldn't stay. Like many other pioneers, rabbits were the only supply of meat, and often he mixed eggs and chop for a full meal or if there was no egg in the hen house, there was no breakfast. Many pioneers lived off the land or did without. Joe also is a very faithful community supporter.

PERCY RUSSELL

In 1930, due to a very bad drought and lack of land for sale, Percy Russell and his father came from Granum to Winfield. The trip was made by C.P.R. and took well over a week. The train would occasionally stop at a lake or a stream so that the conductor or engineer could go fishing. The main attraction of this country was the abundance of water, land and the absence of dust storms. After finding a farm here, he returned to Granum to get his wife and belongings. In 1931, Percy and Ruth moved onto the Ginther place in the Knob Hill district. The farm is now owned by Harry Hastings. Here he worked the land and also worked out at various saw mills in the district.

In 1935, Percy and Ruth took out homesteads on two quarters south of Winfield (N $\frac{1}{2}$ 36-45-4W5). Here they proved up their land with a lot of hard work and a team of horses. Percy worked at Carroll's mill during the winter. He travelled to work by dog team; two dogs and a toboggan.

In 1936, their daughter, (now Mrs. Ken Larsen) was born with Nurse Samuels in attendance. In 1938, their only son, William, was born. He is now living in Malakwa, B.C.

In 1942, Percy and his family spent the winter at Carroll's Camp; crossed the North Saskatchewan River in a row boat with the whole family and a goat named Vicky. It was a hair raising experience as the river was very swift. A man had to stand on the bank, holding a long rope attached to the boat so that it could be safely rowed across. In the summer of '43, they returned to the homestead. Going into town one night to celebrate Mrs. Russell's birthday, (supper at Joe Walter's cafe), a fire was coming across the country from the Town Lake area, so the evening was spent fighting fire instead of eating. Before the fire was brought under control, about 15 men from Carroll's mill ended up at the homestead to help. All the roads were blocked off by fire and the men spent four days fighting fire and sleeping on straw on the kitchen floor and eating eggs until everyone was ready to cackle.

In 1949, they moved to Winfield. Percy bought a small school bus from Mr. Hoffman at Buck Lake. In 1954, they bought a farm out of Winfield, the Sonny Nelson farm, now owned by Tom Thurber. Percy continued to drive school bus until his passing in May 1966. In October 1969, Mrs. Russell remarried and is now Mrs. Georg Allen and is living in Vancouver.

THE HENRY SAMEL STORY

In 1962, we decided to take a step we had long dreamed of - to move out of town to some unimproved farm, and try living as our pioneer forefathers had.

After searching for a time, we found such a place at Winfield. The country was beautiful, the location private, and the few people we had met were fine country folk. The following year, we sold our store and home in Sylvan Lake and made plans to move to the former Don Goodkey, and Dewar farm (NE 5-46-4-W5).

It took us two days to put up our pioneer shack, a 14' x 24' shanty, which had a loft in the high side for sleeping.

Our two children who were still home were Linda, 16, and Wayne, 11. They went to school for the first time on a bus. They adjusted beautifully to our primitive life, and soon enjoyed it as we did.

Our water supply was a sparkling creek which ran fifty feet from the house. There was no power or telephone and our road was mud for the first two miles.

It rained almost continuously for the first two years, so quite often we met our two married daughters and families with the old \$50.00 Minneapolis and hay rack. These times are quite unforgettable to our grandchildren who lived in the city.

We gave our electrical appliances to our married daughters, and brought out to the farm, and used, all our antiques. The 138 year old stove, the spinning wheel, churn, coffee grinder, Edison roller gramophone and a 1919 Model T Ford.

The three years until improvement came will always be most memorable for us all. Soon, a good gravel road was built, the underground telephone came by, the power line came by; and when our well turned out to be a flowing well, we were almost back to city conveniences.

Henry began to work as a mechanic for John Fredrickson when we moved to the farm, and at this time still does.

Some kindnesses we will not forget are the many times Leslie Rigby came down with his horses to pull our car up our muddy hill, the enjoyable times I was taken blueberry picking by them, and the time Frank Willows and boys dropped everything to come help put out a threatening fire.

I suppose from our modern day pioneering experience, we learned one basic fact. That essentially people are the same in whatever age one lives in. The difference is that in by-gone days, folks were so much more dependant on the neighbour, but we found, that in these days he is still there to help if and when the need arises.

submitted by Vicky Samel.

LAURENCE AND PEARL SCHENK as told to B. M. Bunney

Laurence and Pearl Schenk were both born at Cairns, Alberta. They went to school there while living on a ranch. They were married on September 11, 1943 and settled on a ranch near Metiskow. Donald, Shirley, Carol, Gaylene, Dorothy, Joann, Andy, Yvonne were all born there on the OS Ranch. Due to dry conditions, we thought we'd look west of Wetaskiwin. Hay and moisture conditions enticed us to move west to Buck Lake. In 1965 and 1966, we bought from Coleman Kiss and Jack Parker. We live on Kiss's, half mile north and half a mile west of the curling rink. We took the crop off in 1965 and moved up to stay on April 7th, 1966. Before we came to live Pearl came to visit a sister, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Chaney, elevator agent at Breton in 1958, riding the "Muskeg Special". This was the children's impressive train ride, needless to say they loved it. The trains to be the same. It was divided in half, passengers in one half, animals in the other half but the door was usually left open for full benefit of the animal odor. The same procedure in summer, besides stopping at every siding or spur they also stopped to pick berries along the way. When we left Breton, it took us twelve hours to get from Breton to Red Deer.

We have two strains of beef cattle, Angus and Herford. The children go to Buck Lake School to finish Grade 8, then they have to ride the bus on into Winfield High School. Pearl works with 4H clubs, Home and School, Recreation and also tries to support the Baptist Church. She is a niece of John Kvigstad who owned NW 36-46-3-W5 at Yeoford. Donald married Marrilla Austenson and lives at Drayton Valley, Shirley married Bob Stewart and lives at Buck Lake. Gaylene was first runner up in Grade 12 at the Snow Queen Ball, is lab and x-ray technician at Jasper. Dorothy works in claims at Workmen's Compensation Board in Edmonton.

JOE SCHRIBAR

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Schribar came to this district from Lacombe in 1930. They homesteaded NE 2-46-5W5.

There were eight children. Annie and Effie are in B. C., Mary at Lacombe, Joe Jr. at Spruce Grove, Rudy is in St. Albert, John in Wetaskiwin, Adolph in Edmonton, Jenny (deceased 1943). Mr. Schribar deceased June 1951 and Mrs. Schribar deceased August 22, 1957.

ETHEL AND EUGENE SEELY AND TWO SON'S J.L. & DOYLE THEIR TRIP NORTH

After we had been married a few years, we decided to get a homestead, and in the north was the only place there were any home lands to be had. We talked to people and asked about homesteads. There was a man, Hans Kingsizion, who worked for a neighbour, who told us that he had been up north and had lived near Norbuck and been to Winfield. There were homesteads to be had there. We also knew my niece's grandpa, Mr. Blake, who had gone north the year before. He lived near Fishers' Home. We didn't know where it was, but Grandad Blake said the same as Hans. That there were places one could homestead, all kinds of fruit, fish, moose, elk, deer, to be had in hunting season. All kinds of trees anyone need-

ed for fences and buildings and corrals. It made a beautiful picture. My mother wasn't so sure that it would be as rosy as they had said. "Dear girl, remember there will be a lot of hardships that you know nothing about". "Well", I said, "I am sure we can make out". Down deep in my heart when I thought of leaving, it really hurt. Mother had not been too well that winter. I thought so much of her I hated to leave, it almost broke my heart. But, if we were to get a homestead we would just have to go. We had bought a place at Conrad, Alta., with only a Section house, well and a siding where grain was loaded and shipped from. One could mail a letter if it was important, by using a round hoop and a clothespin which was fastened to the hoop. You put your letter in the pin, held it up and the brake man caught the hoop, got your letter, smiled and waved BYE BYE.

The year before we left, Gene put up green russian thistle for cow feed, and salted them down. We got it from our neighbours summer follow. Thistle seemed to be the only thing that grew that year, although by hauling water and watering the garden, we raised a fair one. I canned all that I could.

It was after Chirstmas that we decided for certain we would go homesteading, so I got busy and canned the rest of my carrots, parsnips and beets. We milked cows that winter and spring. I made yellow cream cheese and butter and packaged it for the trip. Gene was busy hunting antelope and butchering pigs, I cured and canned it, so we would have plenty for the summer. We traded everything we owned - our car, home, just everything we couldn't haul, for cows and horses that could walk. We put a tent over the top of our hay rack, took the front off and left about two and a half feet in front for the driver and myself to sit.

At last we were ready to leave on a bright and sunny day. It was June 26, 1933. It wasn't as hard to say good-bye to Gene's folks as mine as we knew we would see them the next spring, when they brought our cattle up. Mine, we didn't know when.

There were three families of us; Dick Blake and his daughter Evelyn (my niece); Ed Hamling, his wife and three children, Earl, Violet and Bob. Hamlings had come to our place about a week before we left. She used my cook stove to make meals and to bake bread and cookies for the coming trip, but she didn't make nearly enough to last a week. Well Grandad Nate from New Dayton, Alta., which was eighteen miles away, and Gene's two brothers Dan and Ray and also Carl Bossert of Wrentham, came to say good-bye and wish us all the luck in the world. They stayed and helped us to get the horses started across the open range, which was about five or six miles. Then they waved good-bye and went back. We had to leave about twenty horses behind. With Dick's six head and our own, we trailed fifty-seven horses north. After we left the open range the horses trailed along not too bad. Our teamster was Onenfoss Derosesei, known to most people as Oscar. When our boys, J. L. three and a half years, and Doyle, one and a half years old, got tired of sitting in front, they ran back and forth between beds in the tent. It was quite a job to keep them from running too far. We had our bed, the boys bed, our clothing, food, dishes, etc. in the tent covered wagon. In front, Oscar sat on a large box. In it was some early chickens which we had hatched out early in the spring. I sat on everything that was put in the wash tub; potatoes, ropes, halters, hammers, nails, wrenches, just everything and anything, it was a catch all. It was far from the softest seat in the world, but it was the only seat to be had. Behind the tent wagon, we trailed an old fashioned grain tank wagon loaded with furniture, etc., and behind that was the old democrat buggy, which Gene had built a box on, the full size of the buggy for the laying hens. Although I had saved eggs for the trip, we wanted the hens with us. It was a good thing we had them as Hamlings didn't have any eggs.

We camped just south of Taber the first night. We always tried to find a back road or roads that weren't used very often, so we could put ropes across both ends of the road to help keep the horses from going back home. Even then the horses would get out at times and go back five or six miles. We didn't get too early a start the second morning as we had to get the horses' brands inspected and get a trail permit. Once again we were on our way. At lunch time the trail hands would take turns in coming to my wagon and getting sandwiches, cookies, etc., as I always had something ready. The second night we camped quite a distance north of Taber. The day was bright and sunny. I am sure the rest had enjoyed it as much as I had. We travelled to Vauxhall the next day and camped that night below Lake MacGregor on the little Bow River. It rained all night and just poured all the next day. The kids and I stayed in bed most of that day to keep warm. We were all glad to see the sun shine, it was so fresh and clean. The men couldn't get Dick to move the next day. Something had rubbed him the wrong way, so we had to wait another day. We were sure glad when we got going the following day. The sun came out and we were like birds. The trail

hands sang songs and the kids and I joined them. We camped that night near Carsland on a grassie open flat near a railroad track.

In the morning the men were up early. They found three horses had fed beside the track and walked out on the tressell of tracks. The legs of two horses were down through the ties between tracks. They had to get the section men to help get the horses off before the train came. Our best mare was five piers in the tressell. The section crew wanted to cut her legs off and let her fall a hundred feet below, but no way would we let that happen. They got a twelve inch plank in front of her. Once they had sawed the ties and got her feet up on top, the men steadied her while the rest carried and placed planks before her so she was able to walk off. Thank God we got the horses off of the right of way before the train came along.



The Eugene Seely family in 1946. J.L., Gene, Dalven, Doyle, Larry, Bev, Melvoy.

Although they had the danger flags up we were thankful there weren't any extra trains. We left one horse with a farmer as it was hurt and couldn't travel. Travelling was slow that day as the horses had a hard time walking. The first of July we had to travel about forty miles to get water for the horses. It was ten o'clock before we found water. I got supper and could have sung and danced all night, but the next morning I was too sick to get up. I had a fever of a hundred and three, so we didn't move that day. The horses being tired and hungry were good and didn't stray away. When we moved on I was still too sick to sit up in front, so I stayed in bed. Finding water early that day, we camped. The next night we got to Calgary. One of the wagons had a broken wheel, so we took in the Calgary Stampede for two days while waiting for repairs. As we travelled and stopped we met wonderful people. A lot of times we stopped near farm homes. They often asked if we would like to bake something. I never missed a chance to bake. Mrs. Hamling always baked some too. While things were baking I cooked a pot roe, etc., so I could feed the bunch the following day. We also washed clothes and hung them to dry on the fences. We would be up early to pick up our clothes so we would be ready when the men were. Away we went for another day. One night we stopped along some farmer's fence. After crossing a little creek.

The men thought this was a grand place as they were sure there was fish in the creek. When the farmer saw us he was mad. He didn't want anyone by his place. So we moved on. The men were sure he had a net in the creek so they went back up along the creek after a while and sure enough there was a net so they helped themselves to the fish, put the net back and came back to camp. We all enjoyed the fish. When we got to Carstairs, we travelled west of the railroad and came out at Sylvan Lake. It was most maddening the way people didn't know where one place was from the other. We would ask one person and he might say, "Oh, you have gone too far", or "just a little farther about a mile or two". You may travel for hours before you knew they had told you the wrong way. I am sure they didn't know themselves. Anyway, we went west and around the west side of the lake and travelled north and west until we crossed the rails at Hoadley. Came north east and camped by Muskeg Creek. It was the twenty-third of July and damn near froze to death. Everything froze that night. The water on the step had thick ice on it. We wondered what we were coming to. We stopped to lunch on the Battle River. An old man came out on the road and told us to keep going, but we stopped for lunch anyway as we weren't hurting anything so we couldn't see why we didn't have as much right on the side of the road as he did.

We went on and stopped at Pigeon Lake with Indians near by. Then to Falun and north to Mulhurst, then west to Fishers' Home. We made camp. At last we reached Grandad Blake's place. He was glad to see us all. We looked for a homestead. Slim Johnson had a place across the road.

We were there about a week when we met Carl Eddler. He had a five room house. He offered it to us if I would cook for him and help look after the garden. I loved gardening, so that was what we did. There was all kinds of fruit, raspberries, cranberries, chokecherries and sand cherries. I was as busy as a bee. Gene was also busy looking for a place to hay. When we reached Yeoford, we had only seventy-five cents, but still had enough butter, 100 lbs. of flour, sugar, meat and canned goods until we traded a horse for one good milk cow. Carl's place was about three and a half miles from Yeoford. Our post office was Wenham Valley, about one and a half miles from Carl's.

We had about four or five neighbours who were all so good to us. They didn't live too far away so we got to know each other and played cards and took in the dances.

It was the last of August when Gene and Oscar went to Alder Flats. Gene found a homestead he wanted but someone else had filed on it, but had gone away and left it, hadn't done a thing with it. Well he came home and on the first of September he saddled his horse and rode to Edmonton. He had taken another horse with him and sold it at Leduc. That night he slept in a straw stack. The second day of September he cancelled the place and rode the seventy-five miles back to Yeoford in one day. Before spring he had the place. We wintered our horses at Falun, all except two which ran away. We had heard about them so Gene went looking for them. Everywhere he went looking, people knew about them. He looked all winter but never found them. They were branded 44. On October the 18th, it snowed about fourteen inches. Gene got ready to go on a hunting trip. Carl Edler, Donnie Gillies, Carl Eckland, and Gene went out on sleighs and camped at the old Tipping place. Ted and Carrie Johnson and her folks were camped there too. Carl Edler shot the first moose. Gene shot the next one. It started to rain, so they got ready to leave. They got to the Flats, but the snow was all gone. They had to hire Harry Runka with a wagon to haul them to three and a half miles north of Yeoford. Boy, what a trip. Well we cut up the meat and cured it. We butchered a pig and I cleaned the pig guts and got the casing ready to make sausages. We made a whole wash tub of all kinds of sausage. They made a smoke house by the time we had the meat ready. It filled it. We thought it was time we tasted the meat, so they brought some in one night. Boy, it was good, but they thought it could stand just a little more smoke. Gene always looked after the smoking of it, but was doing the chores that morning. Carl thought he would be a good guy that morning and fix the fire in the smoke house. Well the next thing we knew the kids shouted "FIRE". The smoke house had burned down and all the meat with it. I could have cried. Out of the biggest hams, we saved enough for a few meals.



Mrs. Eugene Seely
and baby Beverly.

My first trip out to Alder Flats was on Gene's birthday, December 9th, 1933. We had packed our bed roll and enough food for ten days. In the rush to go, I forgot to pack Gene's birthday cake that I had made him. We left our boys with Oscar and Carl while we were gone. We travelled to Winfield. It was getting cold and dark, so decided to camp in the school yard. The school wasn't locked, so I made supper while Gene put the horses away. We made the bed, and I was in bed. Gene was fixing the fire for the night, when a knock came on the door. I was sure someone was going to tell us to move on. I jumped up and dressed in a hurry while Gene answered the door. Some men were there asking if there was a dance. Gene told them he didn't know. They said they were sure there was. We rolled our bed up and got the rest of the things out in the wagon. We were just finished when the crowd came in. We danced and had a good time. At supper time someone knocked the boiler of coffee off the stove. Gene caught it and saved someone from really getting burned seriously. When the dance was over the trustees came and told me we were welcome to stay the night, but to make sure the fire was safe when we left. We thanked them and they left. We hurried once more. Gene

fed the horses while I made the bed. We slept like a log. We were up early, as we had to make it all the way to the Tipping place before everybody was asleep. Carrie and Ted Johnson made us welcome. I enjoyed myself very much. Since it had turned very cold, we stayed a day or two longer. The weather didn't warm up, so we left. It was 35 below when we left for home. I had heated a large rock and wrapped it up so I had heat to keep us warm. When Gene got cold he ran by the side or behind the sleigh to warm up. We stopped at Penderyl to feed the horses and ourselves, and went the rest of the way home. The boys were glad we were home, and we were too. Well, I went back to house cleaning and cooking for the bunch. We played cards or went dancing. Gene trapped all winter. Time went by very quickly.

I wrote to Mother every day or so and told her about our trip as we went along. Also wrote to Gene's folks. Mother wrote as soon as she knew where to write. We were sure glad to hear from home. I picked 50 pounds of blueberries and sent them to her. Mother was glad to get them. She still wasn't well, so after Christmas, she and my sister Phyllis Peterson went to Edmonton. They had heard of a Dr. Kelly that just might help them both. Phyllis had lost her voice at the time of child birth. Mother had an awful pain between her shoulders. Mother wrote to me from Edmonton, so I went up to see her. I had been up twice to Edmonton to see them. Mother said her pain had gone and hoped it had gone for good. She said they were coming out to see us before they went home. The kids were as glad as I was.

One night after we had been to a dance, and were sleeping like logs, I thought I heard someone asking for Seely. I woke Gene up and told him. He said no one this time of night would be asking about us. Well it was Phyllis. She couldn't tell us what was wrong. Mother wasn't with her. I thought they had been in a car crash, but that wasn't it. Poor mother had died on the bus on the Thorsby hill on their way out to see us. The bus driver left Mother at Breton and was good enough to bring Phyllis out and looked us up. Gene got them something to eat while I packed. I took the boys with me to Edmonton. We stayed overnight. I had to take sister back to see the doctor, before we left as the shock was just too much for her. We shipped mother to Stirling, Alta. for burial. I stayed with Dad till the weather was nice then I came to Winfield by train ready to go out to Alder Flats. I wrote Gene and told him when I would get to Winfield. He was to meet me and the boys there. He hadn't received my letter, but he had told Tommy Somers to keep a look out for me - a tall blond with two boys and to tell me I could get a ride out to Buck Lake with the mail man (Harry Ives). When I arrived at Winfield, there was no way to get out to Alder Flats that night. We had to find somewhere to stay. Thought I would never find a place. Someone said they were sure that Mrs. Bedwell could put us up for the night. She had a house full of kids of her own. We had to stay there till noon the next day before we found Krudner and his tiny team. The roads were so muddy they could only go on a walk. He talked a blue streak. We met John Forchuk on foot and Gene on horseback half way through the swamp. Gene thought he would go to Buck Lake to see if my letter was there. This letter, he should have got a week before, and I was home a week before it came. Gene and Oscar had moved out to the old Tipping place while I was down to New Dayton, my old home. Old man Nassen had moved away.

Gene moved the horses and one load on the Democrat. He was herding the horses in front of the Democrat, and when he got to Winfield, there was a young lady there wanting a ride to Pendryl to her folks place, so she took the Democrat and drove it to Pendryl. She was none other than Mrs. Dick Clemmer later on in life. Later that summer, Gene's folks came up and brought our cattle and horses. They spent the summer here and moved back to Falun for the winter. Gene helped take the cattle out to Falun and found grain and straw for the cattle for the winter. When his folks moved out, Bill Todorovich built us a large log house. It had 5 rooms down stairs and large enough for two rooms upstairs. We moved to the homestead in October 1934 and Dalven was born Friday, November 13th. I told Gene he had to send Oscar for the nurse, he said "Oh no, this is Friday the 13th", but I said, "Friday the 13th or not you had better hurry", as he had four miles to go. When Oscar got half a mile from home the team turned him around in an opening on the Mott place. It was so dark, with just a trail through the trees. He didn't get back till seven in the morning and he didn't have the nurse - just a midwife, Mrs. Sissel. The nurse was elsewhere delivering someone else's baby. Mrs. Trot Warren had been staying with me for two weeks, so I had to tell her what to do. In the winter of 1934-35, we sold some steers to the butcher in Winfield, three coming four years old, for the big sum of fifteen dollars a head. Had one Holstein steer he could not use because his bones were too big, so Gene took him out to Falun, butchered him and traded the meat off and came home with 100 lbs. of flour worth about \$1.90 per cwt. We butchered some long yearling steers and tried to sell them in Winfield, and could not give the meat away. Gene gave one quarter to stay over night with a fellow. Gene shot rabbits, hunted squirrels for a living. Also there was lots of moose to live on.

Feed for livestock was not too plentiful, so Gene had to cut fence posts and haul them out to Pigeon Lake or Falun and trade them for hay and grain. One time he got caught by the timber inspector and had to pay double stumpage.

Those were the good old days when you could sleep under the stars, under a spruce tree any old place. Gene helped move John Todorovich and Pently Danyluk out from Winfield to Alder Flats. We also found time to take in the dances as they came along. Gene took horses to Buck Lake Rodeo the first year out here in 1934 "for the good of his health".

We also took in the dances at Buck Lake and in the winter, we took our bob sleighs. Gene and George Todorovich, would hitch up four head of horses to the sleigh and head for the dance. There were six of us, most of the time there would be seventeen when we got to the dance that caught rides. We didn't have much money but we always had good times. We all had kids with us, we made beds on benches and tables for them.

Melvoy was born March 6th, 1934. Mary Todorovich looked after me on the farm. We celebrated all holidays. The neighbours would take turns fixing food and go from one place to another. We would dance, eat and have a wonderful time. Some drank and some didn't. We did this for many years.

I cooked for Snell's lumber, in 1938 and 1939 as they had to travel through our homestead to get to their mill. They stopped to eat and feed their horses when they went through.

We didn't get much money for our work, had to take old used bricks, a second hand door and a window or two. The rest was chalked up to experience. If it hadn't been for the garden I raised it couldn't be done.

Our first daughter was born on a cold and frosty day, January 20th. We named her Beverly Wanda Seely. It was anything but an easy birth.

That spring we bought a lot in Alder Flats from Steve Dethazie on the south west corner of his land. We first built a four room house and a barn and out buildings. That fall, I was up helping clean the school just before school started the fall term. Late the same afternoon, Gene left the boys to stook some grain, while he went to get some chop from one of the neighbours. He came to school to bring me and the baby home. Just before he got to the school, he saw Doyle all bandaged up coming on a horse that had only been ridden double the night before. It was the only horse that was handy. A neighbour lady was on behind him. J. L. and Doyle were going to stook and J. L. always had his gun with him. They saw some wild chickens. Doyle said, "Let me shoot, you always do all the shooting." So J.L. let him take the gun but the chickens flew away. Doyle went to stand the gun up against a tree, the trigger hit a twig, the gun went off, the bullet hit Doyle on the lower part of his jaw bone. He said to J. L. "Why did you hit me?" He was sure that J. L. had hit him. Then he said, "My God I am shot". With blood running down his neck, they ran. It was more than a $\frac{1}{2}$ of a mile to the neighbours. Gene came into the school and said "Doyle has been shot". I was scared to death. Our nurse was out of town about three and a half miles. We had to go to her. She gave him a needle, put another bandage on. While she did this someone got Bert Watson and his car to take Gene and Doyle to Shefflo's as he had a better car. Gene hired him to take them to Wetaskiwin Hospital. The doctor said if it had gone $\frac{1}{2}$ of an inch one way or another he wouldn't have known what had hit him. We have a lot to thank God for as he was home within a week. In June 1941 Larry was born on the farm. During this time we had enlarged our house at Alder Flats. In 1942, we built a dance hall named Mountain View Hall. We had a lot of good times in it. Goldie Bohning and Wilfred Anderson had the first wedding dance there.

In 1945 and 1946, Gene and Johnnie Lee built a stampede grounds, shute, corrals, race tracks and all on Johnnie Lee's place. We all worked hard and had a nice time at the stampede and the dance at our hall. The boys and I worked in the booth all day and in the hall that night.

I went to Magrath. My second girl was born August 9th. We named her Ethel Eileen. Gene worked in saw mills, hunted and farmed the next nine years and also worked for Canadian Mud Co.

We lost our home, hall and just about everything March 6, 1955. We all had good jobs that year but we didn't have a penny of insurance on anything. We had to start all over again. Winter came too soon, we only got the basement in and the floor put down. Dallas was born October 9th.

This is just part of our life in the north.

H.R. SCHERLIE

Henry Scherlie came to the Maywood district in November of 1938 and was employed in the lumbering industry, alternating between Letourneaus saw mill and Etter-McDougalls mills until June of 1942. In Edmonton he joined the Canadian Forces for active service overseas. Henry and Hazel Berg were married in Wetaskiwin in June of 1944, moving to Calgary to live until January 1945. That summer a daughter, Carole, was born in Edmonton.

Henry was discharged from the Army in November 1946 and found employment in this district until the spring of 1948 when the present farm was purchased and the family moved there.

A son, Allen, was born at Wetaskiwin in July 1948 and that winter the family lived in a rough lumber cabin at camp six. Every morning the sun shone through the cracks and knot holes throughout the long cold winter yet the family thrived without a snuffle.

Douglas was born in Wetaskiwin in August 1951. All three children completed their education at Winfield High School and have each pursued different working careers outside the district.

SEATTLE SCHOOL #2761

Seattle school was built in 1912 on the SE 27-46-3-W5 and named by the new settlers

who were a whole community moved up here in 1910 and 1911 from Seattle, Washington. The first teacher was in 1913. Kenneth McKenzie, second, 17 year old Philip Rossiter in 1914, third, Percy Brond, fourth, Ben C. Bunney, Kent Furdy also in 1914, 1917 - Miss Nellie Rule, 1918 - Miss Mary Scott, 1924 - Miss Vera Lawson, 1925 - Miss Owre, 1926 - Miss Jenzen, 1927 - Miss Muriel Pearson - boarded at Emil (Slim) and Minnie Andersons, later married Lou Hendrigan, 1929 and 1930 - Miss Verna Peacock, 1931 - Mr. John Davis, 1939 - Mr. Wm. J. Matheson, stayed at Stones, 1941 - Edith K. Freeman, 1943 - Miss Brown. Other teachers were: 1932, Miss Jean Fullerton, Miss Irene Wheale, 1932 & 1933, Miss Jessie Pearson, Miss Augusta Goodhand, Miss Anderson, 1936, Doug Marshall, Mrs. Gee, 1935, Mr. S. W. Cook, Mrs. Essan, Miss Velma Doyle who wed Crestman, Miss Lola Smith, Mr. Brown, Effie Rathgeber supervised a few weeks in 1948. Arrangements were made for Vern Grover to bus the students to Winfield School.



Seattle Schoolhouse - 1915.

Janitors in later years were Mae Bunney then Willie Bunney. Several teachers names are missing. Seattle School was moved to north of Breton but was damaged in transportation and never used.



(On Picture - First Year Seattle School Opened.

Back Row, left to right: Mary Mahoney, Ruth Stone, Edna Anderson, Erma Anderson, Mrs. Andy Carlson, Sadey Anderson, Lena Mahoney (Mrs. McGlaughlin), Margaret Murfitt (Mrs. Simonson). Front Row: Willie Mahoney, Johnny Peterson, Emrich and Maynard Anderson, Charlie Stone, Jimmy Mahoney, Harold Bunker, Albert Peterson, Edith Bunker. Teacher: Kenneth Purdy. Second teacher: Phillip Rossiter - 17 years old when he came to teach on a permit. Third teacher: Percy

Brond, originally from Ontario. Fourth teacher: Ben Bunney.

HANS SELINE

Hans Seline, a bachelor, homesteaded on the NW 9-46-3-W5. He witched for water before people dug their wells and was always successful. Carl Hagen family lived with him for some time. Alex Goodall family now own this property and have built a modern home here.



Hans Seline on his homestead - 1935.

GILBERT SIEGEL - written 1971

My dad, William Siegel, and family came to Edmonton from Michigan, U.S.A. in 1911. He looked for land in the St. Paul area before coming to the Buck Lake district.

At this time there was rather a land boom in Edmonton. Many folks were looking for land. Dad was told there was land available at Buck Lake, but as it took so long to travel out to see it, it would be better to pick a homestead sight unseen, then go and see it. He was fortunate it turned out to be a good quarter.

The family, including five children, Herman, Allen, Margaret, Isobel and myself (Gilbert), came from Wetaskiwin by wagon and horses. There were all the household effects and some chickens on the load. There was probably a cow too but I do not quite remember as I was only six. I do recall the first egg which we children divided after it was cooked.

The homestead was SE 5-46-6-W5 and it was in 1913 we came to the district. This land is now owned by Eddie Rivers.

The first home was built from logs with pole and sod roof. The main source of meat was rabbits (wild) and partridge.

In the summer of 1914, Mother and we children moved out to Knob Hill so that we could go to the Seattle school. Kathleen was born while we were there. We moved back home when school was out. Then we didn't go to school for a year. In 1916, there were ten children in the district, they were Beatrice, Pearl and Carl Sisson, Fred, Lena and Ebba Bjur, Ejnar Larsson, Allan, Isobel Siegel and myself. As there was no school building, school was held at a vacant homesteaders house (Mr. Jacobson's). The teacher was Augusta Wilson. School was held there for one year then we had no school for a year as we couldn't get a teacher. A log school was then built across the road from the Charlie Parker place. Later a school was built on the Coleman Kiss place. There is now a modern school near the east end of Buck Lake teaching up to grade eight.

There had been a forest fire through the Buck Lake area and I remember how we could see a large part of the surrounding country from the big hill.

Dad had a mail route for a while. Later on Herman took over the route from Yeoford to Buck Lake or Minnehik as it was then known. Pack horse was the best means of transportation till freeze up and snow, then a team and sleigh was used.

Years before there was an old trading post at Rocky Point. At that time all that remained was part of the fireplace and a few logs.

Form D.

No. 435170

DOMINION



LANDS

RECEIPT

Agency No 22954

Agency,

I hereby Certify

that I have received from

Guilbert C. David 192..

the sum of TEN dollars, being the fee for,

Entry of

Quarter of Section

Township

Range

West of

Meridian, subject to the right of the

Province to take for road purposes, without compensation prior to issue of patent such land as may be required not exceeding 2½ per cent of the total area (O. in C. 20th Nov., 1907), and that he is, in consequence of such entry and payment, vested with the rights conferred in such cases by the provisions of the Dominion Lands Act.

Agent.

Rev. Form 31

11 AS 15 //

Dad at one time hauled lumber for Mr. Long from Burrows' mill at the south end of Buck Lake. I used a small team and helped. Often we put both teams on one wagon to pull

a load through a mud hole.

We grew quite a few potatoes and a large vegetable garden. We sold potatoes at Hoadley or Bentley. One year it snowed early, the spuds were dug in four inches of snow, a few rods at a time. Everyone else's potatoes froze and that year all our potatoes were bought by John Mann of Hoadley Store for a dollar a bushel. One year we sold potatoes for twenty-five cents a bushel to MacDougalls sawmill.

The Tipping family were one of the early neighbours. Dalton Tipping and I became hunting companions. As Dalton grew up he became an expert Taxidermist. He hauled the mail to Wolfe Creek at one time and was also Forest Ranger for several years.

I recall one of Daltons' birthdays, we went hunting and got a moose whose horns measured 64 inches across, the biggest moose we ever got. Tippings also had a horse ranch on Wolfe Creek at one time, and I bought a horse from them. One day while searching for this horse we began running out of food. Four days passed, we cooked the remaining rice and made ourselves chop sticks to eat it with. We often took a camera along which had a time device on it. Then we could both get in the pictures, which Dalton developed. Dalton also rigged up a string across game trails to the camera (rigged with a flash powder pan) and got many fine pictures of moose. I always enjoyed my trips with Dalton, he was such an interesting companion. Dalton had a cabin near the south of the Wolfe which he used as Ranger headquarters and in the winter when he was trapping.

In 1927, I took up a homestead, NE 6-46-6-W5. I worked in Burrows lumber mill in winter and on the homestead the rest of the year. Herman had been working for Brewsters' Trail Riding Camp at Banff in the summer. In the summers of 1929 and 30, I went up and worked there too.

I was working in Burrows' mill at Norbuck the winter of 1931-32 and in April was married to Greta Larsson, daughter of Oscar Larsson who lived one mile east of Dad's place. We moved to my homestead and lived there for about 24 years. During that time our son Earl was born in 1941 and daughter, Carol, in 1943. Times were pretty hard and besides trying to get the farm improved, I worked at whatever I could to make a few dollars. I trapped furs and hunted squirrels in the winter and beaver in the spring.

Dad had proved up on his first homestead before 1925 and was entitled to another one. He got the quarter joining his on the west, SW 5-46-6-W5. After Dad died I bought this quarter from the estate and in 1956 we moved out there. We had no road into the homestead and it was hard for Earl to get to school. He then went to Alder Flats school.

By that time the oil boom was on and I got work with several construction companies at different times.

Herman married Maggie Moody and they lived on the farm now owned by Donnie, their youngest son. Herman was a Councillor for Division Seven of Wetaskiwin County for some years and died in 1966.

Allan married Eva Burrows about 1928. He went into partnership with Art Burrows and they had their lumber mill at the south end of Buck Lake, then the north end, and later at Norbuck for some years. Art Burrows died and Allan and Eva went to Chilliwack, B. C. where they now live.

Margaret died in 1913. Isobel married Charlie Weatherill about 1923 and homesteaded a place now owned by Donnie Goodkey, they now live in Vancouver, B. C. Kathleen married Pete Kiss and they still live in Buck Lake. Mother, Mrs. Ida Siegel, is still living at the age of 91. She spends the fall and winter months mostly at the Lutheran Senior Citizens Home in Wetaskiwin and the rest of the year at her cabin at Buck Lake.

JEFF SHARKEY

Jeff Sharkey lived here thirty-seven years. He moved to Wetaskiwin in March 1972.

He and his brother, George, lived by Art Ellingson's or Ed Clark's (Bunker Place), then lived SW 27-46-3-W5, then at SW 22-46-3-W5. Then he bought Lucy Johnson's place and Jimmy Knights.

MR. AND MRS. B. J. SHAMP

Mr. and Mrs. Shamp came to Alberta in 1919 and spent the first two or three years in the Bentley and Rimbey district, then came to the Poplar Valley district where they took a homestead, NW 33-4-5-W5. The two oldest boys filed on land at the same time. Fred's joined the folks on the north and Lionel's joined Fred's on the west. A large log house was

built on Fred's quarter as there was a wonderful spring flowing; the spring served as an ice box in the summer months. I remember at times those first years that there would still be ice at the bridge where the spring flowed across the road allowance the end of May and the first part of June.

The Shamp's had four boys, Lionel, Fred, Clement and Raymond, the last two attended the Pendryl School. There were also three girls, Beryl Day, who was married in Nebraska (the Days came in 1923 to this district), Mrs. Coral Burns who lived at Bluffton and Della who later became Mrs. Ray Storms and now lives at Magnolia, Alberta.

The two older boys and Mr. Shamp worked in logging camps and saw mills the first years but in the thirties started their own lumber business. In those days there wasn't much profit in lumber but they made a living and it provided jobs for some of the neighbours. Fred and Ray went to Washington to Bible School and both are Ministers. Clement served in the army during World War Two and has lived in the States since the end of the war.

Lionel carried on with the saw mill with hired help for a while and in 1942, they had an auction sale. Lionel also went to the States where he has had his own plumbing business in Montana.



Mr. & Mrs. B.J. Shamp -
Golden Wedding - 1946.

Mr. and Mrs. Shamp later moved into Winfield where Mr. Shamp served as Janitor in the first little school that was built on the present site. That was the school term of 1945 and 46. He suffered a severe heart attack in the late spring before school was out and was unable to work any longer.

September 1946, they celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary in Winfield. The Pendryl Ladies Club which later became the Conroy Club, furnished a lovely cake for the occasion. I think Mrs. Ben Stady made and decorated it. In Feb. 1947, the Shamps went to Washington where the boys were living at that time. They planned to return to Canada in the summer but Mr. Shamp had more trouble with his heart and was unable to travel. On July 23, 1947, he passed away at the age of 75 years. A letter received by Mrs. Day written by him just before his death told how he longed to get back to Canada and especially Alberta which had been their home for so long.

They both loved this district and Mrs. Shamp's hearts desire was to spend her last days here and be buried in Poplar Valley Cemetery across from the little Church that they had a part in building.

After living in White Rock, B. C. for a while, she came back to Alberta and spent her last days with her two daughters, Mrs. Della Storms and Mrs. Beryl Day. She took sick quite suddenly and passed away after two weeks illness in Rimbey Hospital, October 18, 1955 at the age of 78 and was buried in P. V. Cemetery.

So ends the brief history of one of the pioneer families who gave of themselves to open up this district. May we remember and appreciate the heritage they have left us. Beside's them there are many others who came and by labours and sacrifices opened up this country. Much credit is due to all those who were the first to settle here.

GEO. E. SHAVE

Geo. E. Shave came from south - west of Leduc, bought land, W $\frac{1}{2}$ 27-47-3-W5, six and a half miles south-east of Breton in the fall of 1930. He cleared fourteen acres and had a shack twelve by eighteen.

In 1937 he was married to Nellie Clarke also from south-west of Leduc. Moved west that fall by team and wagon. Hank Goltz also trucked some cattle out the same time.

Feed was very scarce, hauled wheat straw all winter for two years with a team of horses, sixteen hours on the road one way.

The hay and crops were so poor those days, the value in feed was poor, horses and cattle stayed thin. It wasn't until people started growing clover and started using fertilizer that things began to improve.

I tried to sell the place to get out of the country, but found out later that it was the best thing that ever happened to me that I couldn't sell. No one could even get a dollar's worth of credit, which also turned out a good thing, one had to manage the best way he knew how.

The soil was chalk white when broke. It made us sick to look at it, after being used

to black soil. But after a few years of clover and cultivation it has changed to a brown in color and much better soil.

The years were hard and slow, wells were drilled with a long poplar pole, seven inches at the butt, twenty-five feet long put over a wagon axle to form a spring pole to bounce a string of three-quarter inch pipe up and down. One could drill a well a hundred and thirty feet deep.

Before that we melted snow in the winter for nine cows and three horses, by using a large sheet of tin forming a V on a tri-pod, built a fire underneath and shovelling snow on the hot tin, an inch of water ran into a half barrel. The snow was bucked up with a horse. The yard was completely cleaned of snow for two winters.

The cattle ranged out for pasture, some times a mile or more away in the bush. It took a lot of time twice a day to hunt them, taking from five a.m. to two or three hours later to round them up and milk the cows by hand. It sure was an improvement when we got them fenced in on cultivated pasture. We also had twelve sheep and we cut down poplar trees and they would eat the leaves and chew off the young bark.



Geo. & Nellie Shave

When our young son, Geo., started school at Wenham Valley, two and a half miles south, the teachers were mostly Supervisors having grade ten. I must say they did an excellent job. The children all passed their grades as well as today. One of the Supervisors rode horse back two and a half miles in below zero weather. They'd light the fire, carry water for drinking, also janitor work for very little money per month.

At one time Wenham Valley had two schools and one time there were sixty pupils attending. As times got better, people moved out to better jobs and at last there were only five children going to school.

In 1950, a school bus route was started from Wenham Valley district to Breton. I, Geo. Shave, was the bus driver, driving twelve miles with twelve children. After twenty-three years, I am still driving bus.

We used to do our threshing for several years with a thresher cylinder hung between two timbers and run by an old car. A pulley was bolted to the spokes of the rear wheel and belted to the cylinder. The oat bundles were fed to the cylinder which shot out the back to a slotted table. Nellie raked the straw off and piled it up in back as straw was precious as grain. The chaff and grain was then shovelled out from under the table and into the bin. Later a threshing outfit was hired. The belts on that machine were made from a red and white cow hide and made quite a pretty sight as it went around.

Summing up things over the years, we are satisfied as things have gone and would do it all over again. We are now satisfied with this west country and wouldn't trade it for Leduc country where we came from. Grain is as good - no summerfallow - clover and grass the best.

Farming costs in the early years were very low - \$5.00 for two plow shears. With hay and oats for horses, one could start spring work. Grain prices were higher twenty-seven years ago than now. Good cows sold for \$200.00 to \$300.00 at times.

Money was always short in the early years but living was simple with very little expenses to pay out. Now there's power, telephone, propane, oil or coal to pay for before we can eat.

Probably during the early days, the reason money was short - one was clearing land, building houses, barns, etc., drilling wells or dug them. There was very little time for money or anything else, but the community had it's good times also. Dances in the school house or home parties, picnics and so on.

As for our family, we have two girls and two boys. Geo., Doreen, Shirley and Robert. All married now.

My wife, Nellie, and I are getting ready to retire and spend our old age pension soon.

MR. AND MRS. THOMAS SHERIDAN

In May 1932, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Sheridan and two daughters, Eleanor and Rowena, left Daysland, and came to Alder Flats to take a homestead. The land of settlement was SE 32-45-7-W5.

They came in a model T Ford, and shipped household goods and cattle by train.

Mr. Sheridan was a school teacher, through the years he taught at Buck Lake, Alder

Flats and Spruce Hills.

Their first home was a log cabin, as with most all the homesteaders in this area and this was chinked with moss.

Eleanor, now Mrs. Alex Danyluk, recalled their first bed in the log house was made of boughs as the furniture did not arrive for some time.

First P. O. was at Alder Flats with Mr. A. E. Damant as postmaster, he also ran a store.

The new school was built, with the first teacher, Emma Danard, as there had not been sufficient time to chink the logs well, it was rather cold in the winter. Mrs. Danyluk also remembered how the teacher made the children march around the room every so often to warm up.

Some early neighbours were Mike Batiuk, Marcus Hagen, Dick Bassok, Mike Dysik, John Forchuk and the Damants.

The first summer was very wet and almost impossible to farm. They dug a well by hand and put a cribbing in of whatever material was on hand.

Mrs. Sheridan sold eggs occasionally for 5¢ a dozen. There were neighbours who had spinning wheels, which was a great help in making footwear and mitts.

The homesteaders had some very enjoyable times at their picnics in the summer. There were always ball games. The main mode of transportation for the young folks was horseback, but the wagon and buggy were used by the family. Roads were not made for cars until later.

The Danyluk family, Pentely and Martha with 2 sons, Mike and Alex came in '34. They had been here in '29 to homestead but not to settle.

In 1938, Alex and Eleanor were married. At first, he worked at Etter-McDougals mill and she stayed on the farm. When Margaret was born she moved off as it was difficult to stay alone with a baby.

In 1952, they bought a store and continued to run it until '68 when Alex became the councillor.

Now they live in Alder Flats village. Marg married Daryl Hammond and they live on the old Sheridan Farm. They have three children.

JULY 1945 - FIRST SHEEPHERDER'S PICNIC on Art Jones Farm



Glen Johnson, Bill Burris, Scotty Donald, Lou Hendrigan (back turned - to camera standing), Melvin Jones, Art Jones.



Christine Handbury facing camera. In 1953 Mrs. Art Jones was crowned Shepherd's Queen and Art Jones was crowned Shepherd's King.



Judging the Sheep - Lou Hendrigan, Art Jones.



Some of the sheep.



A pet goat's horns can be seen on the point of the barn roof.

SIEGEL, William R. and Wife, Ida May

Came to Canada from the U.S. A. in 1910 arriving in Edmonton. Then worked with his team there digging basements and also on what is now the High Level Bridge.

In the spring of 1912, while the snow was still on, travelled to Buck Lake where he had filed on a homestead, unseen until the time of arrival.

At that time, they had five children, Herman, fourteen years, Allan, twelve years, Margaret, ten years, Isobel, eight years and Gilbert, five years of age.

One of the overnight stops was at the east side of Buck Lake where some of the Calhouns lived at that time.

The Tippings lived on the place that Henry Browns now live on (Mr. and Mrs. Tipping, a daughter, Mary and a son, Dalton).



William Siegel about 1926.

Times were very hard, no land cleared, no buildings up, no roads, especially in summer. The closest places were Wetaskiwin and Laconibe. Later on, a small store and Post Office at Yeoford. Herman, carried the mail for a time when he got a little older. In the winter by sleigh and in the summer by pack horse. Also bringing what tea, sugar, salt and the bare necessities that could be got and were needed. For years the mail and freight were hauled from Yeoford to this west area.

Margaret Siegel passed away in 1913 and as no cemeteries were organized yet, she was buried on the homestead. Her grave was the beginning of what is now the "Siegel Hill Cemetery".

In 1914, another daughter was born, Kathleen. She was born at Yeoford where Mrs. Siegel was staying during the winter months so the older ones could go to school, as there was still no school at Buck Lake. Kathleen came to west of Buck Lake as a baby a few months old. She was the first white baby west of the Lake.

William Siegel passed away December 31st, 1937 after a short illness. Interment in Maywood Cemetery.

Herman Siegel passed away in 1966, leaving his wife "Maggie", four children and eleven grandchildren. Interment in the "Siegel Hill Cemetery".

Between the years of 1937 and 1966, Ida Siegel had donated a portion of the old homestead to the community for the Cemetery.

Allan Siegel, wife Eva (nee Burrows) have retired after being in the lumber industry for years and now live at Chilliwack, B. C.

Isobel Weatherill (nee Siegel), husband, Charlie, live in Vancouver. They have five children. Three live in Vancouver, one in New Zealand, one working in northern

B. C. Gilbert Siegel, former wife Greta (nee Larsson) lived just west of his Dad's old home stead. Greta passed away leaving her husband and two children, Earl and Carol, both in Calgary. Gilbert and present wife, Marge (Nee Pye) still reside on the same place.

Kathleen Kiss (nee Siegel) is still living next door to where she spent her childhood. They also have two grandchildren.

Ida Siegel, better known to all as "Grandma Siegel", is now ninety-one years of age.



Herman Siegel and custom wood sawing outfit.

She has a room in the Lutheran Home in Wetaskiwin but spends much of her time in the Buck Lake area and Edmonton with children and grandchildren and great grandchildren. She can tell many interesting items of hard times and inconveniences of early days in the area.

OSCAR SKOGLUND

Oscar Skoglund arrived here and settled on the NW 33-46-3-W5 in 1911. When I asked him to compare life, then and now, he said with a laugh, "I didn't have a rag to my name when I came, and now I'm all rags". On December 11, 1917, he married Siri Bylund in a ceremony held in the old Wetaskiwin Hotel. Siri Bylund came from Sweden to B. C., then moved with her sister, Signi Ostlund and brother-in-law, to the Yeoford district in the fall of the year. They lived in the Freberg house. This was quite a striking change from the flowers, fruit and green grass of B. C. to a place with 2 or 3 feet of snow. They came out on the Nowell's stage. Mr. Nowell's was the main way of transportation from Wetaskiwin west to Yeoford at that time. Oscar remembers many times having to walk because the horses played out when the mud was so bad that the wheels wouldn't turn. It seemed in those days when it started to rain, it rained and rained.

Oscar's first dwelling was a log cabin, 12' by 16'. It must have been well built because it is still standing near the comfortable new home they live in today. The first mail carrier that Mr. Skoglund can remember was Mr. Jenson. The first postmaster was an old Englishman whose name he can't recall. As the story goes, this man had a yoke of oxen when he came. He wasn't familiar with farming or handling a team on hills and trails such as there are along Battle Lake. So when he came to a steep hill with a rack of hay, he decided to back the oxen down the hill, as they would be able to hold the load back that way. But the oxen, hay rack and the Englishman all got to the bottom in one big hurry. Also there was a Mr. Tatro and Henry Miller that were postmasters. Yeoford was a supply centre and post office before Winfield was known. Yeoford was here long before the railroad went through Winfield and Breton. Mr. Tatro and Mr. Miller were the first Yeoford store keepers Oscar remembers. Later, Mr. Nowell's had the store.



Left to Right: Johnny Johnson,
Oscar Skoglund, Mrs. Oslin, Mrs.
Oscar Skoglund, Annie & Maude
Skoglund in front

Some of our early neighbours were Ginthers, Oscar Olin, Casinchifs, John Johnston and Enoc and Nat Johnston. Enoc and Nat were brothers. They left Sweden together and parted in eastern Canada. They didn't know where the other went. They met again years later west of Yeoford at a logging camp. They lived on a farm near Skoglund's. Enoc became a road counselor here. Sanford Nelson was another neighbour. He came in here in 1906. Sanford had a sawmill and planer. He had sheep on his farm and kept bees for honey. Also, he had a film projector and showed films in the halls around for the people's entertainment. Another entertainment he had was a pet bear. Mr. and Mrs. Nelson had one son, Sonny and two daughters, Dorothy and Ruth.

The farming in those days was almost nil. No one had much land cleared. The haying comprised of haying the big and small sloughs. It seemed all it did then was rain, rain, rain. The hay was cut with a scythe, many a weary hour was spent with sweat running down the back. It was gathered with a rake, similar to a garden rake, but with longer teeth, then forked into little hay cocks to dry, eventually loaded on a hay rack and stacked at home.

A flowing spring and a dug well was the water supply. This well is still in use with a windlass and pail to draw the water. The spring still runs in the coulee. The price of groceries and supplies was lower then, but there wasn't much money so no one bought anything more than the bare necessities. I recall Oscar saying when he took five cattle, one to two and a half years old to market, he got \$36.00 for them all. Later, beef went up to 5 or 6¢ a pound. He remembers when he took his cattle to Wetaskiwin, he talked to a man that lived near Wetaskiwin. This man had brought a cow to market that had lost her premature calf. He had mentioned it to a couple of young fellows he met. The two young fellows were out to make a dollar anyway they could, and asked if they could have the calf. They skinned it and sold the hide for \$8.00. They got more for the hide than the man got for the cow. Premature calf hides were used for making drum heads.

Mr. and Mrs. Skoglund had a family of one son, Johnny, who has 2 boys and 2 girls;

and three daughters; Maude has 2 boys and 1 girl; Annie has one boy and two girls; Signi has two boys.

Problems or handicaps - in those days we had plenty, but no one complained. We enjoyed going by team to visit. A visit to someone at a distance was an all day trip. The babies were tucked in a box of hay; we all bundled up warm and away we went. Times were great in those days. A trip of 8 or 10 miles with the team and sled wasn't thought of as it would be now. We used to go several miles to a dance for entertainment. One of us would locate an empty house or some similar place for a house party or we would have them in our own homes if they were big enough. John Johnston was great for gathering up someone with an instrument to bring the music.

There were blizzards in those days too. One time, Oscar recalls driving right over the fence posts as they weren't in sight above the snow drifts. The roads weren't much in those days. Where it was swampy, the freight trail was corduroyed. The only bridge between Norbuck and Pigeon Lake was over the canyon just east of Skoglund's farm. He remembers Mr. Ricker coming by with a load and was trying to help turn the wheels of the wagon with a cant hook because the mud was so bad.

Another time, an old Norwegian started from Buck Lake with a team of oxen to take them to the packing plant, but they must have thought something was up. The oxen ran away and it took him two days to get as far as Oscar's cabin. He had left home with only a sandwich in his pocket, so Oscar made him a meal. He said that was the best meal he had ever eaten in his life.

In those days, Ricker's logging operation along the Poplar Creek was one of the main sources of employment. He would have the logs cut and skidded to the banks of the Poplar Creek all winter. He had the water dammed near Norbuck. In the spring when the run off came, he would open the dam and away went the logs down the Poplar to the Saskatchewan and down to Strathcona (Edmonton) to Mr. Walters mill. Ed Goodhand was one of the men that rode the log boom down the river to Edmonton. In 1914, John Johnston, who lived where Beelby's live now, Mr. Svenson and Oscar Skoglund went down to hire on for the log drive. When they got there, they were too late. A flood had come, washed out the dam and took the logs down the Poplar Creek to the Saskatchewan. Everything washed down through Strathcona taking Mr. Walters mill with it on it's way to Lake Winnipeg. Two or three years later, Oscar was in Saskatchewan and people were still salvaging logs out of the river. Mr. Ricker lived on the Ricker ranch near Breton where Benny Flesher lives now. He died in 1914 so that was the finish of the logging.

Oscar Olin was a member of parliament and lived on SW5-47-3-W5, now owned by Mrs. Callies. He was able to employ many on his farm. He had most of the quarter completely cleared and was farming it. He also died in 1914 - another source of employment gone. Around the same time, a fire started in the Knob Hill area and burned in the shape of a horse shoe through where Winfield is now, across by Norbuck, turned and headed east past the J.K. I enley quarter, then owned by an old Finlander. His large house was destroyed by the fire.

Oscar Skoglund hauled lumber from Sanford Nelson's mill to Wetaskiwin and Gwynne. He recalls one trip: it was blizzarding. The horses had to guide themselves along the trail as he couldn't see anything.

The Skoglund children went to the Seattle School, later called Knob Hill. It was called Seattle because so many families moved into that district from Seattle, U.S.A.

RUDOLPH SKOGMAN

Cliff Skogman and brother, Herman, arrived here from Camrose in 1927. Rudolph came in 1928 and he homesteaded SE $\frac{1}{4}$ 28-45-3-W5. He married Mildred Sherbourne in 1936. They have two children, Owen and Janice. Owen lives with his parents on the homestead and Janice is married and lives four miles east. The Skogman's were the first settlers south of Winfield.

They started raising beaver in the spring of 1928 and "quit" - pelted them - in 1948.

EDMUND SNELL

Florence May Taylor born February 24th, 1907 at Owen Sound, Ontario, second child to Fred and Viola Taylor. Older sister, Almena, now in Vancouver and younger sister, Goldy, deceased. Father passed away when I was three years old. Mother remarried to William (Billy) Clark and came to Alberta. Mother took out a homestead at Vegreville and

they farmed. There were no schools there until I was eight years old.

We moved to Penny, B. C. (just this side of Prince George) and my stepfather worked



In front of the sod roofed home of Grandpa Freeman Wilson's home. This roof never leaked. 1923. Florence Taylor, Joseph Wilson, Augusta Wilson. Sitting in front, Grandpa Freeman Wilson, father of Ebby Wilson. Died at Alder Flats at age 86. 1923.

in the mill. They stayed in B. C. I chose to come back to Alberta. In 1923, I went to live with Wilbury and Augusta Wilson at Minnehik P. O. It had a sod roof which incidently never leaked. Sheets were used for partitions as they were in many homes in those times. In some homes there were no partitions at all. I went to Minnehik School. Miss Lottie Cox was my last teacher. We didn't have school books, only slates, 12" x 15", and a slate pencil about six inches long. Each lesson was erased and we carried on with the next lesson.

Edmund Snell came to Breton in 1909 from Ontario and homesteaded three miles out. Started in sawmill business soon after.

In 1925, on January 19th, I married Edmund Snell and went to live at the sawmill at Battle Lake below Walter Fullerton's right down by the lake and cooked for the mill crew too - sometimes up to forty men.

Dorothy May was born November 6th, 1926 in Wetaskiwin hospital. Frederick David was born at camp February 17th, 1929. A very hard winter. Then we moved

to the homestead three miles east of Breton. The other children were all born in Wetaskiwin hospital while we lived on the homestead. Melvin Edmund on September 11th, 1935, Gordon Charles on April 16th, 1944 and Sharon Elaine April 8th, 1948.



Back row, left to right: Gilbert Siegel, Tena Parker, Doris Parker, Sophie Krysta. Front row: Ernie Krysta, Lee Parker, Mary Krysta, Kathleen Siegel, Mary Parker, teacher, Miss Lottie (Cox) Ives, Ernie Muskly. Classmate Florence Taylor took the picture. Minnehik School 1923.

When Fred was a baby he had been sick in hospital and we were trying to bring him home. It was very cold and the lights on the car wouldn't work. I ran ahead of the car with a lantern to show the way. I only had light clothes on because it had been warm when we left. I froze my legs, hands and face very badly. After we got stuck in drifts, I carried the baby to a nearby bachelors until they got the car lights fixed and came on up there. Another time, we were taking my sister to meet a train in Wetaskiwin. Part way there the horses played out and we spent the night 40 below zero "jolly on the spot" beside a campfire trying to keep warm until they were rested enough to carry on.

Dances, Christmas concerts and picnics, lots of house parties were some of the high lights. When I was at Wilson's we'd take the boat across Buck Lake to the dance.

Snell Brothers built the largest boat, the "Marguerite", named after Ward's wife, was built for excursions on Pigeon Lake. People danced on it, picniced on it, etc., every weekend all summer. Even used it as a diving spot too.

Mr. I. O. Gibbons was the first store keeper at Buck Lake. Roy, Bill and Stella were their children.

We moved to Tom Mazar's in 1961 where we lived for eight years. We moved to Breton in 1967. Edmund is now in a hospital in Edmonton.

Brothers "Coblin" and "Meikle" lived in a seperate dugout on hillside down by shore of Buck Lake. Their houses were built into the hill. All you could see was the door. No windows whatever. No floor. They had posts to hold it up and some slabs on walls and on ceiling. In time the walls caved in some.

Dorothy married Hugh Harold (Bud) Wilson, October 12th, 1946. They live at Norbuck and have McLeods store in Breton. They have two children, Hugh Edmond (Butch) born June 14th, 1947, who is married to Mary



First United Church Congregation held at Minnehik School about 1923. Mr. Ellis, the minister, at the arrow.

Broks. They have a baby girl.

Frederick married Mary Alice Joan Rustand July 19th, 1952. They have four girls, Lorraine, Gloria, Linda and Karen and live on a farm at Norbuck.

Melvin wed Ruth Summert March 25th, 1966 - live south-west of Breton.

Gordon married Marlene Rusk September 23rd, 1966 and have a boy and a girl. They live at Norbuck.

Sharon is married to Reginald G. Malmas. They have two children, Grant and Lisa and make their home at Logan Lake, B. C.

Florence May (Taylor) Snell.



Minnehik P.O. mid '20's. The McKay family, Tena Parker, Isabell, Florence Taylor, Mrs. Gibbons, Augusta Wilson.



Inside the P.O. - see stuffed owl done by taxidermist Dalt Tipping. Florence Taylor and her last teacher, Miss Lottie (Cox) Ives, Augusta Wilson, Goldy Taylor.

WARD SNELL

The Snell name is well remembered by many homesteaders. Four brothers - Charlie, Will, Edmund and Ward (twins) came west from Ontario. Ward took up a homestead in 1911 near Wenham Valley and the following February married Margaret Rogers from Westfield, Ontario. After farming about six years, Ward and Ed set up a saw mill at Battle Lake which they operated for seven years. From here they moved the mill to Pigeon Lake where Ward also had a general store, a box factory, a garage, and a pleasure cruise. This area was later developed as the resort of Crystal Springs. The Snell home was always open to friends and neighbours. They had five children - Annie is married to Hugo Bergstrom and they have a home here on what is known as Tufts farm as well as one at Wetaskiwin. Their son John and family have a new home on the Everett Dawson farm. Many folks also remember Mr. Snell's inventions, especially the "walking tractor" which was designed to carry loads over the muskeg. Ward spent another two years with the sawmill at Nordegg before moving to Edmonton where he and Margaret resided until his death in 1970. Mrs. Snell is still active and enjoys friends and family!

REVERAND SNEEDDON

Rev. Sneddon arrived in this area in 1900. He was stationed at Telfordville. He was in this area steadily up to 1910 and was the district travelling preacher. He came from Ontario. His way of travel was by ox team. His home was a log house. The first teacher he remembers was Miss Brown. The school was Strawberry Creek. The nearest supplies were at Leduc. Some of the early neighbours were: Mr. Grant, Mr. Littleproud, Phillips, VanAlstyne, McFargaber. The farming conditions were primitive. Oxen were the source of power.

People in those days didn't complain, they just gave a helping hand when it was needed and a lot of times that was their main source of enjoyment.

His greatest handicap in those days was poor roads. Forms of entertainment were the occasional dance and house parties. One interesting event was the marriage of Miss Brown, the teacher, and Mr. Grant. Rev. Sneddon wishes he could remember the names of some of the families in the Yeoford and Breton area that he had many a meal and a nights lodging with, as he travelled through that area. The only one he remembers is John and Mrs. Wheale. He said that name seemed to stay with him. He came back after he left in 1910 and travelled through, having services in homes or where ever it was arranged to have them. It was at this time that he met the Wheales. Even on saddle horse, the travelling was cold in winter

and wet in summer. In those days, we were blessed with our share of rain and it seemed, other peoples too.

SNOW PLOW CLUB - YEOFORD AND KNOB HILL

In the 1940's, severely drifted roads and farm yards, lanes, etc., were a need for some means of keeping roads open to them. Certain open spots usually drifted closed and so a Snow Plow Club was formed. The men created a snow plow to fit on Stone Brother's tractor and they were paid a minimal fee if the need arose. When the county rose to the needs of it's ratepayers and could keep the roads open, the Club was dissolved.

SOCIETY SCHOOL

Society School District was formed in 1934 (later nicknamed the Little Red School). Many names were submitted (Society - by Mrs. Thrasher Sr.) after checking with the Dept. of Education, it was found that many names suggested were already in use so "Society" was then chosen. It had as it's Trustees, J. E. Thrasher Sr., Geo. Crawford and Cliff Skogman. School was opened in the fall in a small house formerly the residence of Jack Jones and his spouse - where they had gone to I can't remember. The pupils were Andrew and Raymond Hustad, Irene Garfield, Arthur, Lawrence and Kathleen Crawford, Phyllis and Chas. Sherburne and the Glanfields, Ruth, Peggy and Fred who came later on. The teacher was J. E. Thrasher Jr. The desks were all homemade - even the teacher's desk. I think that Geo. Crawford designed them and made them with the help of anyone who would volunteer a few hours now and then. The supplies, such as blackboard and chalk and erasers and bell were procured from Moyer's School Supplies on the cuff. It was a hard year and I recall leaving off classes and taking to the woods to round up fuel for the stove. Some of the pupils went home for the noon meal and the others brought lunch. Anytime that I spied any who had no lunch, I dispatched them down the fence line, a half mile, to the Thrasher Sr. home on the pretext of borrowing the crosscut saw. They always came back stuffed with food and dragging the saw. We did use the latter some and carried in plenty of wood for the next day or so. The Dept. of Education supplied a Library grant, otherwise books donated by myself or others around the district. The teacher's salary which was set at \$600.00 per year, turned out to be the school grant which was based on the number of days school was open and the number of pupils. Cheques were sent, made payable to the teacher, one in January and one in July. Teacher's salary was always in arrears as the highest grant ever received was \$311.00 and the lowest, as I recall, \$265.00. Everyone was poor. People paid no taxes. Some years, work on the roads in summer months made it possible for people to work off a part of their taxes and even receive "Script" for some of the work. (Maybe you can remember the money printed by the Social Credit Govt. You had to put a stamp on it every week so that in a certain length of time a \$1.00 script had \$1.00 worth of stamps pasted on it and was therefore paid up and returned to the Govt.).

In the summer of 1935, several residents of the district got together and logged enough timbers to build a proper school. The timbers were squared into six by sixes some sixteen feet and some twelve feet long so that the new building was the required twenty-four by thirty. It was first erected one mile east of it's final site - so as to be in the centre of the district. New pupils were added - Glenella and Elman Russell and for a short time, Eva Welch and her sister and brother. But after one year it was decided that the bulk of the pupils had too far to walk so the building was taken apart and moved to it's final site which was just across from the original Jack Jones house. It was here that we had the first Christmas concert. Many dances were held in this building. Vivian and I left the district in the summer of 1937. The replacement teacher, we believe, was from Calgary and stayed at Russels. We think his name was Matheson. However, he was never paid anything until January so was unable to go home for Christmas. I think he only stayed one year.

by Johnny Thrasher.

SOCIETY SCHOOL #4631

Crawford was hired to build Society School in 1933 on the NW 34-45-3-W5 and with the help of others including John Thrashers Sr. and Jr., Rudolph and Cliff Skogman.

Some of the teachers were John Thrasher Jr. 1934 and 1935, 2 years, Bethian Vanderberg, Mr. Wm. J. Matheson, Miss Mae T. Bunney, she stayed with the Hustad family 1937 S. Richards.

Some of the family names attending were Glanfield, Sherwine, Russell, Crawford, Hustad, Anderson and Kvam.

HARRY SOMERS

Mr. Harry Somers filed on his homestead in 1933. His two sons, Tom and Cecil, also took up homesteads at the same time. Harry brought his wife out here to live in 1937 from Strome, Alberta. This was the third homestead he had proved up in his life time.

He passed away in 1957 at the age of 75 years. Their only daughter, Belle, taught the Buck Lake School in the early 1930's.

Tom was employed with the Alberta Forest Service as Ranger and timber inspector for several years. He passed away in 1970.

Cecil joined the Air Force in 1940. He married Joan Freeman. He now lives in Calgary.



Mr. Harry Somers all dressed up.



Tom Somers as a Ranger - 1934. Many times too busy to shave. shave.

Albert and Louise Sorge

Albert and Louise Sorge and four small sons, Laleo, Rudy, Albert and Arthur, came to the Winfield area in 1934 from McLeod, Alberta. They homesteaded NW 5-46-3-W5. They started the trip north with four cows, four horses and one brood sow, which the Brownlee Government shipped rail free.

Their first 20 acres of land opened for cultivation was done with horses, grub hoe and axe.

Laleo is married and lives in Edmonton working as a carpenter, he has three children.

Rudy is married, has one child and lives in Rimbey. Albert remains single and works in many places. Arthur and his wife live at McMurray. They have eight children and the stork is expected again in the spring.

Albert and Louise live in semi-retirement on their farm and enjoy medium health.

BEN STADY by Deyda Stady

Mr. Ben Stady was a carpenter by trade, having constructed, among other buildings, many of the station houses along the C.N.R. main line on the prairies, before taking up his homestead in the Pendryl area in about 1925.

Ben was very fond of children and animals, and since they had no children, he bestowed his affection on his animals, making such pets of them that when one had to be butchered, he had to have someone do it for him.

His wife, whom he called Oddlie, told of a time when Ben was away working for a while and she had to do the chores. All went well till she started to milk Old Bessie, who took exception to her efforts and sent her, pail and stool flying each time she sat down to milk. After several attempts and many bruises, she decided she wasn't making any headway and would have to try something different. She put on a pair of Ben's old overalls, (few women ever wore anything but dresses in those days) and went back to the barn and sat down and milked with no more protest from Bessie. From then on she donned the overalls before starting the chores.

In 1948, at age 70, Ben sold his farm and he and Oddlie moved to Edmonton. He got a job supervising the building of houses for the Federal Government in the town of Yellowknife. He flew up there and spent each summer for several years, working in their shop in Edmonton when not in the north.

CHARLIE STADY by Deveda Stady

Mr. Charles Stady came to the Winfield area in about 1923, as a steam engineer for Carrol Brother's sawmill, which, at that time, was located in the Twin Lakes area south and east of the present town of Winfield.

The following year he brought his family to the camp, where they lived until the new town began to take shape. (His son George moved the first building to the new townsite from Carrol Brother's camp with a four horse team and bob sleighs. This building was the home of Mr. Groulx, who was the village blacksmith).

Charlie, as he was known by everyone, later built a home and moved his family into the town.

Charlie was also a carpenter by trade, and I believe he built the first Winfield school, which wasn't in the townsite, but near the railway trestle, near where the first Winfield store was located.

In 1931, Charlie built on to his home and he and his wife, Maude, operated a boarding house until 1936 when they sold it to Mr. and Mrs. Allen Samuel.

He had proved up a homestead just north and east of the present town of Winfield, and they spent the summer there before moving to Edmonton.

They returned in 1940 to spend the summer with their son George and his family, who had purchased and were living on "the homestead".

Both Maude and Charlie were active in the development of the Winfield district, having arrived before the railway went through; the end of the line then was Hoadley.

DON STANNARD

Don Stannard was born at Vulcan, Alberta and spent most of his growing up years at Lamond, (south east of Vulcan), and in the Red Deer district. He went to work as a tree faller in B. C. forests at the age of 17. He did this until he got married in 1956 to Georgina Iverson, who was born and raised in Calgary. They moved to Red Deer where Don went to work at his brother's feed lot. They were there five years and had three children, Vickie, Kelly and Jody.



In September 1962, they bought Lars Larson's place SE 15-46-3-W5, three miles east of Winfield on Highway 13. In those days it wasn't a paved highway but a pretty good gravel road.

Their son, Kelly, has become very active in the Breton Boxing Club. He started in 1968 under the management and training of Corporal Larry Knight of the R. C. M. P. detachment at Breton. Don has also been active in the club as trainer and working with the boys. Kelly has won several tournaments, the best of which was in 1971 when he won Alberta Championship and went on to win the Western Canadian Championship in the 75 pound class.

Georgina raised several hundred fryers to supplement the family income yearly, up to and including 1971.

Kelly Stannard - Winfield.



Stone family & 4 grandchildren.
Ruth Graham, Charles, Helen
Roggensack, Alfred, Edythe
Thieme, Doris Jensen, Phyllis
Klippert, Kenneth between Doris
& Phyllis, Mr. John Stone, Mrs.
John Stone. Grandchildren: Paul,
Thieme, Keith Roggensack, Beryl
Roggensack, Ruth Thieme.



First store at Knob Hill.



Ken Stone's: Del Delamant,
Wilma, Ken, Roberta, Mere-
dith, Judith, Christmas 1970.



The nearest store, Yeoford - owned by J. P. Nowell. Later Mr. Maynard had a store at Knob Hill on N. W. corner of J. Stone's quarter and later Mrs. J. Bunker had a small store. In the early 1920's there was a store at Winfield. In the early 1920's Mr. Stone would go by horses and sleigh to Wetaskiwin with a load of wheat and get it ground into flour--some ground for porridge; and we had our year's supply of flour.

Hogs were hauled to Hoadley. A news item for Knob Hill in the Wetaskiwin Times in 1921: "The telephone was extended from Yeoford to Knob Hill (Mrs. Bunker's). Later it was moved to the home of J. A. Stone. This was also a toll office. Buck Lake road building suspended for season. It is one and one-half miles west of P. O. Lively discussions at public meeting about where the community hall would be built - Knob Hill or Yeoford. Knob Hill won and the hall was built and named Knob Hill Public Hall (Note who has the hall now -- Yeoford!).

A creek flowed through our property. Later a well was dug, and water drawn by a windlass.

Mr. J. Stone was on a committee that arranged for the building of the railroad from Lacombe to Breton. It was an exciting day for the neighbourhood when a huge caravan of horses, wagons, equipment and men trekked past our home to start working on that railroad - no bull dozers in those days.

A different world indeed but there was a lure to wide open spaces. The country was beautiful. I wonder how we ate. There was little cultivated land. Father built bridges and roads and did carpenter work. J. A. Stone had a stopping house for travellers going east and west -- hunters, transients and settlers.

First phones: Toll office - J. P. Nowells at Yeoford, later at Mrs. J. Bunkers, Knob Hill 1921, then J. Stone's, Knob Hill. Only phone in district. Messages were sent by horseback.

Cemetery: John Bunker donated two acres of his land for a cemetery and church. First to be buried in this cemetery: Mrs. McLaughlin Sr.; young son of Mr. and Mrs. Hanson who was lost in this forest country; Mr. J. Bunker who died in 1920. Cemetery named Bunker Hill Cemetery.

First early settlers and neighbours were: Lars Larson and four children, C. B. McLaughlin and Mrs. McLaughlin Sr., Slim Anderson and two daughters, H. Miller, John Bunker and five children, Philip Gunther two daughters, Mahoney and family, Frank Ward, Eric Norlin, Ernie Lutzow, Jim Hanson, Hjalmar Freberg and Ludwig Freberg, bachelors, early settlers.

Kenneth Stone - farmed in the Knob Hill district - bringing a calf found in the woods miles from home. Clifford Campbell (minister) lends a hand.

EARL ST. DENIS

Arlene Russell

Born in 1943 at Hamilton Ont. and raised on a farm until the age of six. Then moved to Alberta where we lived in several different areas, finally settling in Cochrane in 1955. There I met Aurele St. Denis on June 10, 1961.

Aurele (Earl) St. Denis

Born in 1936 on the prairies of Sask. in a small grain farming town of Coderre. Raised on a grain farm until the age of 19. Like every kid at that age, decided the world needed conquering. Went west to work on a ranch west of Calgary. There I met Arlene Russell and was married in 1961.

We operated a farm in the Cochrane area for two and a half years where Philip was born September 25, 1962 and Jeanette November 11, 1963. In March of 1964, the owner announced he had sold the place. The new owners would move in April 1. We had one month to find a place and move out lock, stock and barrel. Through friends, we heard of land selling reasonably in the Winfield area. We came up to look it over, at that time of year three feet or more of snow. After a couple of days of walking and looking at a quarter here and a quarter there and seeing actually nothing, we came across the land we now occupy, SW5-46-3-W5, and SE6-46-3-W5, formerly owned by Lester Francis, then of Red Deer. Being desperate, we called in at his home and made a deal to purchase the half section. The place had no occupants for the past eight years. The fences were down and there were no usable buildings. We rented a house west of Winfield and travelled back and forth putting up a house and drilling a well on our newly acquired land. I got a job on the C. P. R. that summer and worked for two and a half years starting at \$1.00 per hour and putting up hay and working on the farm at nights. Theresa was born March 17, 1965. After the C. P. R. with a few rigs moving into the area and the outlook of better money, worked on these for a few years on and off always putting the top of the check into the farm. Wondering if the farm would ever pay this back. Along about this time, March 10, 1967, Gerald was born. In 1965 and 1966, we bought the W $\frac{1}{2}$ of 7-46-3-W5 from the Government. The NW of 7 being the old McDougal planer site. Needless to say, that vision of conquering the world soon changed to simply conquering each day.

MR. AND MRS. JOHN A. STONE

Mr. and Mrs. John A. Stone were born in Sweden. Both came to New York City as young people. Married in New York and lived there till 1910. Moved to Canada (Wetaskiwin) where Mrs. Stone's parents were farming at Malmo, Alberta. Secured their homestead permit from Homestead Act in 1912. Arrived at the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ 22-46-3-W5, August 1913 with four children.



Knob Hill P.O. - John Stone family.
Back: Alfred, Mrs. Stone, Charles.
Front: Doris, Kenneth, Phyllis.

After they moved to the farm two more children, a girl and a boy, were born to Mr. and Mrs. Stone in the log house. Mrs. Sanford Nelson was the community mid-wife and was in attendance at the births.

Alfred Stone, aged five when they came to the homestead, and Kenneth the youngest, born at Knob Hill - maintained the family property and owned it until Alfred's death in 1968. Kenneth still has the original homestead plus another quarter.

The Stone residence was in the center of the community, school three quarters of a mile, community hall one quarter mile, church a half mile; P.O. and phone in home. Now the school is gone, the community hall is gone, P.O. is gone, and the phone system changed and each residence

has their own phone.

A spacious log house was built with the help of Mr. John L. Nelson who lived across the road. Mr. Nelson was a bachelor and a wonderful neighbour. This log house stood, and was lived in until 1968.

The first Post Offices at Knob Hill: C. B. McLaughlin 1912; J. Bunker 1916; John Stone 1926 -- all in farm homes.

Our first school at Knob Hill was called Seattle School No. 2761 because several residents of the district came from Seattle, Wash. First teachers: Mr. Kent Purdy 1913; Mr. Rossiter 1914; Mr. Brown; Ben Bunney (son of early pioneers); Miss Nellie Rule; Miss Mary Scott; Miss G. A. Goodhand.

HOWARD ISAAC STOWELL

Howard Stowell was born on January 27th at Kearney, Nebraska and died January 23, 1971. He is buried in England. He married Annie Irene Johnson of Stettler, Alberta who was born April 28th, 1895 and died Mary 27th, 1970. She is buried in the Alder Flats Cemetery.

They farmed his father's farm east of Wetaskiwin in the Malmo district until November 1934 and when they moved to a homestead 2½ miles south of Alder Flats. The homestead is now owned by Lawrence Warren.

Mr. Stowell served in the armed forces a number of years during World War Two. When he returned, he built the coffee shop and gas station at Alder Flats, now known as Blades Coffee Shop.

He left in 1946 and went to New Westminster, B. C. where he stayed until 1970 then moved to England.

Annie Stowell worked in Ponoka for about ten years, then moved back to Alder Flats where she still lived at the time of her death.



Verle Stowell and Bateman children.

Children: 1. Grant Albert - died August 2nd, 1949. Buried in Rimbey Cemetery. 2. Lillian May - married Louis Thrower. Resides at Alder Flats. 3. Marie Leverna - married Ronald Blades. Resides at Alder Flats. 4. Ruby Iris - married Hans Velkjar. Resides at Fort St. James, B. C. 5. Raymond Howard - married Vernetta Quinney. Resides at Abbotsford, B. C. 6. Elvin Ross - married Flora Parke. Resides at North Surrey, B. C. 7. Mona Victoria - married Frank Pye. Resides at Winfield. 8. Verle Agnes - married Henery Sluchinski. Resides at Alder Flats.

ELLIS STRINNHOLM

Ellis Strinnholm came to Canada from Solefteo, Sweden in 1913 at the age of eighteen years. He moved to Pendryl with John and Adolf Engblom in 1914 and homesteaded a quarter of land. He then moved to Crooked lake and stayed until 1924. He returned to farm at Pendryl. He was married in 1946 and stayed on his farm until he passed away in 1954. The farm was then sold to Victor Carlson. Mrs. Strinnholm moved to Saskatchewan.

LLOYD SUNDBERG

Lloyd was born at Carstairs, Alberta. He farmed there until 1948 at which time they moved to Rimbey for a short time. In 1951 they homesteaded at Alder Flats. They have four children - Norma married to Jack Adair, they have three children, Marlin, Rodney and Leslie. Jack is employed as driller on oil rigs, moving from desert drilling to salt water drilling. They live in Iran at the present time. John - married to Marian Goodkey, they have two children, Travis and Shannon. They live in Wetaskiwin. John is employed by Dan Hemsworth. Larry - married Lienne George, they have two boys Shayne and Danny. They live in Wetaskiwin and Larry runs the Wetaskiwin Taxi business. Wendy - married Ken Mergle, they have three children, Terry, Sandy and David.

Lloyd and Bessie Sundberg had a cafe at Alder Flats in 1962 and combined it with farming till 1966 when they sold the farm and moved to an acreage at Wetaskiwin. Lloyd now works at Glendale Mobile Homes and Bessie at the Wetaskiwin General Hospital.

Written July 1971.

MAX SORGE AND W. JOINER

In the year 1913, little four year old Ruth, her mother and grandparents, the W. Joiners, arrived in what is now Winfield.

News of ten dollar homesteads had reached them at Tacoma, Washington; so with only their household effects, they boarded a train for Wetaskiwin.

The trip out to this area was made by horse and wagon, through corduroyed swamp and stumpy trails. On Battle Lake hill, the mud reached the hubs of the wheels, which made it almost impossible to haul the heavy load.

W. Joiner first filed on the SE 18-3-36-W5. It is this land, part of the present town of Winfield is situated on.

The following year, Ruth's mother passed away. At that time there were very few neighbours, it was a very lonely life for a little girl. The only visitors for weeks would be the Indians stopping in to buy hay for their horses on their way to Buck Lake to fish.

The Post Office was at Pendryl, and for supplies, Mr. Joiner went to Wetaskiwin once a year.

Ruth Joiner began school at Seattle School. Millie Rule was teacher, but later a school was built at Winfield which she attended. The first school trustees were Wm. Joiner, Alfred Engler, Sid Handbury. Later homesteaders to come were: George Shrigly, Hans Seline, Bunker, Swanson and Elliason.

W. Joiner had the first blacksmith shop in Winfield. In 1934 Max Sorge came to Winfield and filed on a homestead, but rather than proving it up, he chose to buy a farm up for tax sale. This quarter was W. Joiner's second homestead which he could not pay the taxes on out of his \$15.00 a month old age pension. Max Sorge and Ruth Joiner were married in 1937. They still live in the kitchen part of the first Joiner house, which was moved to the present location. Mrs. Sorge still has one of the feather ticks from the early homestead days.

They recalled many hardships of the early days and also many happy times.

Much feared was the forest fires, which were fought with a vengeance, as lumber was the backbone of the homesteader's existence. Lumber mills they spoke of were - Sanford Nelson's and Drader's.

Submitted by Mr. and Mrs. Max Sorge.

PETE SODER



Pete Soder came to the Pendryl district in the early 1930's from Cherry Grove, Alberta. He lived in a dugout on SE 34-45-5-W5, for about one year, then built a log shack in which he lived three or four years, later he lived in a small shack made of lumber. He was a good friend of all the young people mainly because of the refreshments he liked to serve. Pete passed away about 1946. His land is now part of the Bethlani estate.

Pete Soder - 1934 at Pendryl.

THE FRANK STEWART FAMILY - by Blanche Stewart

My husband, Frank Stewart, filed on this homestead, SW 35-45-6-W5 in November 1930. In 1931 we built a log house, 24 feet by 26 feet inside measure. I still live in this house. Two years later, I filed on the NW 22-45-6-W5.

We had two children then, Georgina and Larry. They went four miles to Maywood School through heavy timber and swamps, the first one and one half miles. We had no roads of any kind. We had to brush our own and build bridges across creeks and corduroy swamps to get out.

Frank worked for the Dept. of Highways every summer until he died in 1951. Most of the summer's work depended on me and the kids.

I remember one experience I had, was when I drove the team across an old rail bridge about eight feet high and twenty feet long. When the horses got in the centre of the bridge, one broke through the rails. I had to unhitch the horses and finally got them out and pulled the wagon across by hand. Then I had to repair the bridge so I could get back again.

I never went anywhere without a saw and axe and logging chain as many times the horses got down in swamps and I had to unhitch them and put the chain on the pole of the wagon and hitch the team to the chain and pull the wagon through. I had to help fight three big fires that almost took our home. One of them was on a hot, windy day. I did not have time to put anything on my head so between fighting the fire on the ground and the hair on my

head with a wet sack, I had quite a time but I got the fire out and still had my hair.

Our two younger children, Patsy and Bob, were born on the homestead and went to Balsam School. Patsy took Grade Ten in Winfield and Grade Eleven in Canmore. Georgina married Victor Heath, has one son and lives in Canmore. Larry married Priscilla Becker, has four girls and one boy and lives in Buck Lake. Patsy married Don Bohning, has two girls and lives at St. Albert. Bob married Shirley Schenk, has one girl and one boy. He bought my farm and lives beside me.



Left to right: Frank Stewart, Mr. Sinclair, (Mr. Tipping's nephew), Roy Hutton, Bill Bohning, Blanch Stewart.

There were several large families living in this district when we came but they moved out again because they could not get a school. As they moved out, more moved in and we kept on fighting to get a school. I went to see our M. P. He could do nothing. I wrote to Ottawa and they could do nothing. Then the war started and every time we turned our radio on we heard how lucky the children in Canada were. They all got good educations. So there was my chance. I wrote a registered letter to William Aberhart, the Premier of Alberta, and told him that there were between thirty and forty children in this district, aged from seven to sixteen years, that had never seen the inside of a school room and we did not want them to grow up as ignorant as the children in Germany. That brought some result. They sent the school inspector and trustee. They asked me to draw a

map and make arrangements for a meeting. At that meeting, they told us that if we would put up our own building, they would give us \$50.00 toward the school. We decided that each family would give \$10.00 or ten days work. Some of us gave both. We had trouble getting desks. They told us that they did not have any. The teacher arrived in November and no desks. Geo. Duncan donated an old home made table for the teacher's desk and we put planks in for the kids to sit on and sent them to school. When they knew they could not beat us, they brought in old desks that other schools had discarded. The teachers used the same old table for about three years. I forgot to mention that the school was built out of logs and the women plastered it.

So started Balsam School in 1943 on the NE 23-45-6-W5. Our first teacher was June Crook from Pincher Creek, from November 2, 1943 to the last of June 1944. There were thirty-nine pupils to start with. Mrs. Marian Richmond from September 1944 to the end of June 1948. In the fall of 1948, we had Fred Bushey supervising till Christmas. In February 1949, Mrs. Dorothy Doyle for the rest of the term and from September 1949 to the end of June 1950. Mrs. Isabel Sigador from September 1950 to the end of June 1951.

For the first two or three years, they carried drinking water a quarter of a mile up hill from a creek. We finally raised enough money, by putting on dances and socials, to drill a well, buy lamps, cups and stage curtains - which were all claimed by the big school division when they closed up Balsam School.

A special thanks should be given to the bachelors of our district for the help they gave - Frank Marshall (deceased), Ed Savage (deceased) and George Duncan.

Our first stove in the school was made out of an old oil drum. The children sitting closest to it were burning and the ones further away were freezing. They later gave us a different stove which was not much better. I do not remember the exact size of the school but as near as I can remember it was 34 feet by 42 feet. Our first teacher, Miss Crook, boarded at H. McLeans. Mr. Richmond built a small cabin for Mrs. Richmond and the kids. For Mrs. Doyle we bought an old shack from Ejnar Larrsson. The last two years, the school division built a small teacherage.

GUSTAV SVENSON

Gustav Svenson moved onto his homestead the 8th of October 1929. Filed application for homestead at Yeoford store. Came from Saskatchewan where he worked for Olaf Sheflo's brother.

When he came back from Saskatchewan, he built a 12' x 12' log house and rooted it with sod. He was married in 1939. A son, Alfred, was born in 1940. In 1944, during the June flood contracted appendicitis and had to go to Rimbey. He was driven by Mynor Campbell. At that time the railroad between Winfield and Rimbey was washed out. The reason

he settled here was that Olaf Sheflo came from here to Saskatchewan to his brother's and took Gus back with him to help pay for the gas and oil on the pretext of finding a homestead.

Gus actually came in 1928 but filed in 1929.

RALPH TANNER

Ralph Tanner came from Calgary in the early 1930's. He taught school in Hobemma then came with the Kramer brothers to the Maywood district and took up a homestead. He started teaching Maywood school in April and passed away that same year in October. He homesteaded the land NE 23-45-6-W5, now owned by Jens Baakas. Balsam School was built on this property which was later bought and torn down by Bill Wilson.

Four young Tanner children attended Maywood School during the time they lived here. Phyllis remembers seeing many moose and deer while going to and from school.

There were seven children in the family - Gerald who lives in Grande Prairie, has three children, he manages the Grand Prairie Lumber Co. Beatrice, married Everett Ross, they have two children, they live on Ganges Island, B. C. Grace married Don Cummings, they have six children. Larry - deceased. Phyllis married Marvin Becker, have eight children and live on a farm at Buck Lake. Kenneth lives in Vancouver and has three children. Jean married Don Levins, lives in Vancouver, has two girls. Rodney married Shirley Olson, lives in Edmonton and has two children. Aurthur West, a half brother, has two children, lives at Winterburn. Mrs. Tanner is widowed and now lives in Edmonton.

Written 1971.

ANNA TAYLOR'S PIONEER DAYS IN PENDRYL

Before spring days of 1925, I knew nothing of the country west of Wetaskiwin, except that there was such a place as Pigeon Lake. But my husband was in the hospital, and I had a little boy of five to care for, so it was up to me to do what I could to earn a living. Since it was like that, I naturally thought of teaching, and the old question arose - Where?

At that time, one did not apply for a school through the Inspector or Superintendent, as one would do now. Then, each school advertised for a teacher in whatever paper might serve the purpose. Also, at that time one applied usually to the secretary-treasurer of whatever school might need a qualified teacher. Then, when I saw that Pendryl School asked for applications, I wrote Mr. George Stretton, stating my qualifications and was accepted. In those days, schools did not necessarily begin in September and end on June 30th.

To reach Pendryl at that time, I had to travel south to Lacombe, then north-west to Hoadley. There just was no Winfield at that time! So in due time, my little son and I arrived in Hoadley, with no idea at all how to get from there to Pendryl. We were fortunate to find that we might ride in a lumber wagon. The roads - so-called by courtesy - were typical of so many roads in the spring, muddy, even swampy in places, and we forded the Blindman River, which wasn't as bad as it sounds.

The person who was so kind as to give my little son and myself a ride to Fendryl was Mr. Arthur Burrows. He had quite a load in his wagon. He delivered us to Mr. and Mrs. Harold Weaver, Mr. Weaver being a member of the school board. Mr. Weaver escorted us to Mr. and Mrs. George Stretton's home where we were to board during the short term. We were tired by that time, and very glad to relax a bit. Both Mr. and Mrs. Stretton were very kind to us, during our stay with them, and also when we returned in 1927, when the school term was eight months.

Several new pupils were added to those I had taught in 1925. Not that there was ever a "heavy" load in Pendryl School while I was there. Some of the family names were Adams, Willows, Dewar, Weaver, and my own small son. Later there were Nelsons, Frasers, etc. Lucy Johnson passed her grade eight, and so was not eligible to attend school there any longer.

At that time, the Pendryl store was in charge of Mrs. Dorothy Weaver, who was succeeded by Mr. and Mrs. Gust Bjur. Later this store was moved to where it is now. Pendryl post office was in the store. The district nurse's cottage was in the same general location - and what wonderful women these nurses were!

Since these areas were more or less wooded, those who built and maintained homes there, and cleared farm land, were actually heroes. Since most of it was done by hand in those far-off days. Then came the first plowing of the land, which was a major enterprise in itself.

When we returned to Pendryl, in the spring of 1927, we were able to rent Mr. and Mrs. Weaver's house. They had moved away before that, of course. Nearly all the former pupils attended most of this year.

In 1925, the first Pendryl picnic took place. People came from far and near, bringing food of all kinds. Everybody was friendly - to see their neighbours, and to make any strangers welcome. The food was spread on long tables, and enjoyed by all. Myself and my little son were more or less strangers, but were soon feeling at home among these friendly people. A dance in the schoolhouse in the evening was well patronized, and much enjoyed also. For some years after that a picnic and dance were held and quite popular.

Anna Taylor.

TEACHING STAFF - 1954 to 1972

STAFF OF TEACHERS 1971-1972 COUNTY OF WETASKIWIN NO. 10

NO.	SCHOOL	GRADES	NAME OF TEACHER	ADDRESS
4566	<u>Alder Flats</u>	1-2	Johnson, Mrs. Lois	Alder Flats
		3-4	Farrell, Mrs. Elizabeth	Alder Flats, Box 105
		5	Farrell, Mr. Vincent	Alder Flats, Box 105
		6	Henker, Mrs. Marilyn	Alder Flats
		7	Olsen, Mrs. Anna	Alder Flats
		8	Nelson, Mr. Dennis	Alder Flats
		9	Bratland, Mr. Allan	Alder Flats
			Henker, Mr. Brian	Alder Flats
	Principal	10	Pearson, Mr. Howard	Alder Flats, Box 11
			Han, Mr. Yousik	Alder Flats
3220	<u>Buck Lake</u>	1-2	Grabautzki, Miss Betty	Buck Lake
		3-4	Jason, Mrs. Freda	Buck Lake
		5-6	Jason, Mr. Edward	Buck Lake
	Principal	7-8	Fullerton, Mrs. Esther	Buck Lake
4304	<u>WINFIELD</u>	1	Cook, Mrs. Ruth	Alder Flats
		2	Elgert, Mrs. Annette	Winfield
		3	Kryger, Mrs. Sarah	Winfield
		4	Rentz, Mr. Garry	Winfield
		5	Wyley, Mrs. Judy	Winfield
		6	Sherburne, Mrs. Virginia	Winfield, Box 111
	Elem. Remedial		Borden, Mrs. Mary	Winfield, Box 46
			Kluczny, Mr. Harold	Winfield, Box 129
			Driechel, Mr. Herbert	Winfield
			Sakaluk, Mr. Thomas	Winfield
			Drebert, Mr. Rodney	Winfield
		H.S.	Polei, Mr. Gerald	Winfield
		H.S.	Reuer, Mr. Donald	Winfield
		H.S.	Taylor, Mr. Brian	Winfield
		H.S.	Wyley, Mr. Bryan	Winfield
	Ind. Arts		Rattray, Mr. Garry	Winfield
	Librarian		Olson, Mrs. Roberta Lenore	Winfield, Box 63
	Home Ec.		Guse, Miss Doreen	Winfield
	V.P.		Schmidt, Mr. Arno	Winfield
	Principal		Ollenberger, Mr. Roderick	Winfield

STAFF OF TEACHERS 1970-1971 COUNTY OF WETASKIWIN NO. 10

NO.	SCHOOL	GRADES	NAME OF TEACHER	ADDRESS
4566	<u>ALDER FLATS</u>	1-2	Johnson, Mrs. Lois	Alder Flats
		2-3	Farrell, Mrs. Elizabeth	Alder Flats, Box 105
		4	Robinson, Mrs. Lois	Alder Flats, Box 105
		5	Farrell, Mr. Vincent	Alder Flats, Box 105
		6	Henker, Mrs. Marilyn	Alder Flats

STAFF OF TEACHERS 1970-1971 COUNTY OF WETASKIWIN NO. 10

NO.	SCHOOL	GRADES	NAME OF TEACHER	ADDRESS
		7	Olsen, Mrs. Anna	Alder Flats
		8	Nelson, Mr. Dennis	Alder Flats
		9	Bratland, Mr. Allan	Alder Flats
			Henker, Mr. Brian	Alder Flats
	Principal	10	Pearson, Mr. Howard	Alder Flats, Box 11
3220	<u>BUCK LAKE</u>	1-2	Grabautzki, Miss Betty	Buck Lake
		3-4	Jason, Mrs. Freda	Buck Lake
		5-6	Jason, Mr. Edward	Buck Lake
	Principal	7-8	Fullerton, Mrs. Esther	Buck Lake
4304	<u>WINFIELD</u>	1	Kryger, Mrs. Sarah	Winfield
		2	Mitchell, Mrs. Pamela	Westrose, R. R. #1
		3	Borden, Mrs. Mary	Winfield, Box 46
		4	Rentz, Mr. Garry	Winfield
		5	Wyley, Mrs. Judy	Winfield
		6	Sherburne, Mrs. Virginia	Winfield, Box 111
		7	Hobbs, Mr. Edward	Winfield
		8	Sakaluk, Mr. Thomas	Winfield
		9	Drebert, Mr. Rodney	Winfield
		H.S.	Polei, Mr. Gerald	Winfield
		H.S.	Reuer, Mr. Donald	Winfield
		H.S.	Taylor, Mr. Brian	Winfield
		H.S.	Wyley, Mr. Bryan	Winfield
	Ind. Arts		Rattray, Mr. Garry	Winfield
	Librarian		Olson, Mrs. Roberta Lenore	Winfield, Box 63
	Home Ec.		Guse, Miss Doreen	Winfield
	V. P. H. S.		Schmidt, Mr. Arno	Winfield
	Principal		Ollenberger, Mr. Roderick	Winfield

STAFF OF TEACHERS 1969-1970 COUNTY OF WETASKIWIN NO. 10

NO.	SCHOOL	GRADES	NAME OF TEACHER	ADDRESS
4566	<u>ALDER FLATS</u>	1	Cook, Mrs. Ruth	Alder Flats
		2	Johnson, Mrs. Lois	Alder Flats
		3	Farrell, Mrs. Elizabeth	Alder Flats
		4	Robinson, Mrs. Lois	Alder Flats
		5	Farrell, Mr. Vincent	Alder Flats
		6	Shanks, Mrs. Shirley	Alder Flats
		7	Olsen, Mrs. Anna	Alder Flats
	V. P.	8	Grapentine, Mr. Raymond	Alder Flats
		9	Ceh, Mrs. Elizabeth	Alder Flats
	Principal	10	Pearson, Mr. Howard	Alder Flats
3220	<u>BUCK LAKE</u>	1-2	Larsson, Mrs. LeOpal	Box 104, Buck Lake
		3-4	Jason, Mrs. Freda	Buck Lake
		5-6	Jason, Mr. Edward	Buck Lake
	Principal	7-8	Fullerton, Mrs. Esther	Buck Lake
4304	<u>WINFIELD</u>	1	Kryger, Mrs. Sarah	Winfield
		2	Marshall, Mrs. Elsie	Winfield
			Cripps, Mrs. Shirley	Winfield
		3	Borden, Mrs. Mary	Winfield
		4	Booth, Miss Marlene	Winfield
		5	Gray, Mrs. Dorothy	Winfield
		6	Sherburne, Mrs. Virginia	Winfield
		7	Hobbs, Mr. E. D.	Winfield

STAFF OF TEACHERS 1969-1970 COUNTY OF WETASKIWIN NO. 10

NO.	SCHOOL	GRADES	NAME OF TEACHER	ADDRESS
		8	Sakaluk, Mr. Thomas	Winfield
		9	Drebert, Mr. Rodney	Winfield
		H.S.	Rener, Mr. Donald	Winfield
		H.S.	Schmidt, Mrs. Johanna	Winfield
		H.S.	Polei, Mrs. Linda	Winfield
	V.P.	H.S.	Schmidt, Mr. Arno F.	Winfield
	Ind. Arts.		Rattray, Mr. Garry	Winfield
	Home Ec.		McCullough, Miss Kathleen	Winfield
	Librarian		Olson, Mrs. Roberta Lenore	Winfield
		H.S.	Polei, Mr. Gerald	Winfield
	Principal		Ollenberger, Mr. Roderick	Winfield
		H.S.		

STAFF OF TEACHERS 1968-1969 COUNTY OF WETASKIWIN NO. 10

NO.	SCHOOL	GRADES	NAME OF TEACHER	ADDRESS
4566	<u>ALDER FLATS</u>	1	Cook, Mrs. Ruth	Alder Flats
		2	Kellgren, Mrs. Sharon	Alder Flats
		3	Farrell, Mrs. Elizabeth	Box 99, Alder Flats
		4	Robinson, Mrs. Lois	Alder Flats
		5	Farrell, Mr. Vincent	Alder Flats
		6	Shanks, Mrs. Shirley	Alder Flats
		7	Olsen, Mrs. Anna	Alder Flats
		8	Grapentine, Mr. Raymond	Alder Flats
		9	Moore, Mrs. Lorraine	Box 65, Alder Flats
	Principal	10	Moore, Mr. Norman	Box 65, Alder Flats
3220	<u>BUCK LAKE</u>	1-2	Larsson, Mrs. LeOpal	Box 104, Buck Lake
		3.-4	Beaudoin, Mrs. Marjorie	Buck Lake
		5-6	Shaw, Miss Etty	Buck Lake
	Principal	7-8	Fullerton, Mrs. Esther	Buck Lake
4304	<u>WINFIELD</u>	1	Kryger, Mrs. Sarah	Winfield
		2	Marshall, Mrs. Elsie	Winfield
		3	Borden, Mrs. Mary	Winfield
		4	Brinton, Mrs. Helen	Winfield
		5	Hay, Miss Marlene	Winfield
		6	Sherburne, Mrs. Virginia	Winfield
		7	Duggan, Mr. Graham	Winfield
		8	Brinton, Mr. Paul	Winfield
		9	Burkhardt, Mrs. Sylvia	Winfield
		H.S.	Burkhardt, Mr. Lavern	Winfield
		H.S.	Schmidt, Mr. Arno F.	Winfield
		H.S.	Levine, Mr. Eugene	Winfield
		H.S.	Collinge, Mr. Theodore	Winfield
		Ind. Arts	Rattray, Mr. Garry	Winfield
		Home Ec.	Salaysay, Miss Nelly	Winfield
		Librarian	Olson, Mrs. Roberta Lenore	Winfield
		V.P. H.S.	Roden, Mr. Ronald	Winfield
	Principal	H.S.	Ollenberger, Mr. Roderick	Winfield

STAFF OF TEACHERS 1967-1968 COUNTY OF WETASKIWIN NO. 10

NO.	SCHOOL	GRADES	NAME OF TEACHER	ADDRESS
4566	<u>ALDER FLATS</u>	1	Cook, Mrs. Ruth	Alder Flats

STAFF OF TEACHERS 1967-1968 COUNTY OF WETASKIWIN NO. 10

NO.	SCHOOL	GRADES	NAME OF TEACHER	ADDRESS
		2	Kellgren, Mrs. Sharon	Alder Flats
		3	Shanks, Mrs. Shirley	Box 10, Alder Flats.
		4	Robinson, Mrs. Lois	Box 99, Alder Flats.
		5	Johnson, Mrs. Lois	Alder Flats
		6	Moore, Mrs. Lorraine	Box 65, Alder Flats.
		7-8	Olson, Mrs/ Anna	Alder Flats
		9 V.P.	Moore, Mr. Norman	Box 65, Alder Flats
		10 Princ.	Ross, Mr. Nevin	Box 66, Alder Flats.
3220	<u>BUCK LAKE</u>	1-2	Guard, Mrs. Marvel	Buck Lake
		2-3	Beaudoin, Mrs. Marjorie	Buck Lake
		5-6	Shaw, Miss Etty	Buck Lake
	Principal	7-8	Fullerton, Mrs. Esther	Buck Lake
4304	<u>WINFIELD</u>	1	Kryger, Mrs. Sarah	Winfield
		2	Marshall, Mrs. Elsie	Winfield
		3	Borden, Mrs. Mary	Winfield
		4	Seghers, Miss Shirley	Winfield
		5	Kneunz, Miss Deana	Winfield
		5	Hay, Miss Marlene	Winfield
		6	Anderson, Mr. Wesley	Winfield
		7	Sherburne, Mrs. Virginia	Winfield
		8	Cripps, Mrs. Shirley	Winfield
		8	Jones, Mrs. Doris	Winfield
		9	Rosser, Mr. Earl. L.	Winfield
		9	Weisenberger, Mr. Gordon	Winfield
		10	Hagan, Mr. James	Winfield
		11	Hokanson, Mrs. Carrie	Winfield
		12	Schmidt, Mr. Arno F.	Winfield
	Ind. Arts		Rattray, Mr. Garry	Winfield
	Home Ec.		Schmidt, Mrs. Johanna	Winfield
	Librarian		Olson, Mrs. Roberta Lenore	Winfield
	V.P.		Roden, Mr. Ronald	Winfield
	Principal		Ollenberger, Mr. Roderick	Box 120, Winfield

STAFF OF TEACHERS 1966-1967 COUNTY OF WETASKIWIN NO. 10

NO.	SCHOOL	GRADES	NAME OF TEACHER	ADDRESS
4566	<u>ALDER FLATS</u>	1	Cook, Mrs. Ruth	Alder Flats
		2	Johnson, Mrs. Lois	Alder Flats
		3	Shanks, Mrs. Shirley	Box 10, Alder Flats
		4	Robinson, Mrs. Lois	Box 99, Alder Flats
		5-6	Fox, Mrs. Anna	Alder Flats
		7-8	Olson, Mrs. Anna	Alder Flats
	Vice Principal	9	Moore, Mr. Norman	Alder Flats
	Principal	10	Ross, Mr. Nevin	Alder Flats
4985	<u>MINNEHIK</u>	1	Guard, Mrs. Marvel	Buck Lake
		2-3	Larsson, Mrs. LeOpal	Buck Lake
		3-4	Beaudoin, Mrs. Marjorie	Buck Lake
		5-6	Wallace, Miss Sharon	Buck Lake
	Principal	7-8	Fullerton, Mrs. Esther	Buck Lake
4304	<u>WINFIELD</u>	1	Kryger, Mrs. Sarah	Winfield
		2	Marshall, Mrs. Elsie	Winfield
		3	Borden, Mrs. Mary	Winfield
		3	McNally, Mrs. Patricia R.	Winfield

STAFF OF TEACHERS 1966-1967 COUNTY OF WETASKIWIN NO. 10

NO.	SCHOOL	GRADES	NAME OF TEACHER	ADDRESS
		4	Chugg, Mrs. Henrietta	Winfield
		5	George, Mrs. Iola	Winfield
		6	Vickery, Mrs. Shirley	Winfield
		Junior	Sherburne, Mrs. Virginia	Winfield
		and	Hutchinson, Mrs. Olivia A.	Winfield
		Senior	Chugg, Mr. Daniel	Winfield
		High	Mahon, Mr. Bruce	Winfield
		School	Mahon, Mrs. Barbara	Winfield
		Vice-Principal	Roden, Mr. Robert	Winfield
		Principal	Ollenberger, Mr. Roderick	Winfield
			Henault, Mr. Robert	Winfield
			Vickery, Mr. Norman	Winfield
		Home Ec.	Stybel, Miss Gloria	Winfield

STAFF OF TEACHERS 1965-1966 COUNTY OF WETASKIWIN NO. 10

NO.	SCHOOL	GRADES	NAME OF TEACHER	ADDRESS
4566	<u>ALDER FLATS</u>	1	Cook, Mrs. Ruth	Alder Flats
		2	Johnson, Mrs. Lois	Alder Flats
		3	Shanks, Mrs. Shirley	Box 10, Alder Flats
		4	Robinson, Mrs. Lois	Box 99, Alder Flats
		5-6	Vance, Mrs. Antoinette	Alder Flats
		7-8	Olson, Mrs. Anna	Alder Flats
		Vice-Principal	Tarrabain, Mr. Mike	Alder Flats
		Principal	Ross, Mr. Nevin	Alder Flats
4985	<u>MINNEHIK</u>	1	Guard, Mrs. Marvel	Buck Lake
		2-3	Larsson, Mrs. LeOpal	Buck Lake
		3-4	Beaudoin, Mrs. Marjorie	Buck Lake
		5-6	Gustafson, Mrs. Myrtle	Buck Lake
		Principal	Fullerton, Mrs. Esther	Buck Lake
4304	<u>WINFIELD</u>	1	Kryger, Mrs. Sarah	Winfield
		2	Marshall, Mrs. Elsie	Winfield
		3	Borden, Mrs. Mary	Winfield
		3	McNally, Mrs. Patricia R.	Winfield
		4	Green, Miss Margaret A.	Winfield
		5	George, Mrs. Iola	Winfield
		6	Burnard, Mr. Roy L.	Winfield
		7	Sherburne, Mrs. Virginia	Winfield
		8	Hutchinson, Mrs. Olivia A.	Winfield
		9	VanOerle, Mr. Terrence W.	Winfield
		10	McIntosh, Mr. A. J.	Winfield
		11	Simpson, Mrs. Ethel	Winfield
		Vice-Principal	Ruttan, Mr. Mohindar Singh	Winfield
		Indust. Arts	Stone, Mr. Charles Leonard	Winfield
		Principal	Smith, Mr. Walden	Winfield

STAFF OF TEACHERS 1964-1965 COUNTY OF WETASKIWIN NO. 10

NO.	SCHOOL	GRADES	NAME OF TEACHER	ADDRESS
4566	<u>ALDER FLATS</u>	1	Cook, Mrs. Ruth	Alder Flats
		2	Johnson, Mrs. Lois	Alder Flats
		3	Shanks, Mrs. Shirley	Box 10, Alder Flats
		4	Robinson, Mrs. Lois	Box 99, Alder Flats

STAFF OF TEACHERS 1964-1965 COUNTY OF WETASKIWIN NO. 10

NO.	SCHOOL	GRADES	NAME OF TEACHER	ADDRESS
		5-6	Sprague, Mrs. Patricia	Alder Flats
		7-8	Olson, Mrs. Anna	Alder Flats
	Vice-Principal	9	Tarrabain, Mr. Mike	Alder Flats
	Principal	10-11	Ross, Mr. Nevin	Alder Flats
4985	<u>MINNEHIK</u>	1-2	Guard, Mrs. Marvel	Buck Lake
		2-3	Larrison, Mrs. LeOpal	Buck Lake
		3-4	Holland, Mrs. Winifred	Buck Lake
		5-6	Gustafson, Mrs. Myrtle	Buck Lake
	Principal	7-8	Fullerton, Mrs. Esther	Buck Lake
4304	<u>WINFIELD</u>	1	Kryger, Mrs. Sarah	Winfield
		1-2	Kitchenmaster, Mrs. Bonita	Winfield
		2	Marshall, Mrs. Elsie	Winfield
		3	Borden, Mrs. Mary	Winfield
		4	Svendson, Mrs. Myrna	Winfield
		5	George, Mrs. Iola	Winfield
		6	Turpin, Mr. Wm. Cletus	Hoadley
		7	Sherburne, Mrs. Virginia	Winfield
		8	Gaudet, Mr. James Arnold	Winfield
		9	Anderson, Mr. Fridtjof	Winfield
		10	Riddell, Mr. Everett J.	Winfield
		11	Gillespie, Mr. Lloyd E.	Winfield
	Vice-Principal	12	McCue, Mr. Arthur Duncan	Winfield
		Shop	Grant, Mr. Wilfrid	Winfield
	Principal		Smith, Mr. Walden	Winfield
			McKay, Miss M.	

STAFF OF TEACHERS 1963-1964 COUNTY OF WETASKIWIN NO. 10

NO.	SCHOOL	GRADES	NAME OF TEACHER	ADDRESS
4566	<u>ALDER FLATS</u>	1	Cook, Mrs. Ruth	Alder Flats
		2	Blades, Miss Elaine	Alder Flats
		3-4	Robinson, Mrs. Lois	Box 99, Alder Flats
		5-6	Kitchenmaster, Mrs. Bonita	Alder Flats
		7-8	Olson, Mrs. Anna	Alder Flats
		9	Forchuk, Mrs. Wolma	Alder Flats
	Principal	10-11	Ross, Mr. Nevin	Alder Flats
4985	<u>MINNEHIK</u>	1-2	Guard, Mrs. Marvel	Buck Lake
		3-4	Holland, Mrs. Winifred	Buck Lake
		5-6	Gustafson, Mrs. Myrtle	Buck Lake
		7-8	Fullerton, Mrs. Esther	Buck Lake
4304	<u>WINFIELD</u>	1	Kryger, Mrs. Sarah	Winfield
		2	Marshall, Mrs. Elsie	Winfield
		3	Borden, Mrs. Mary	Winfield
		4	Svendson, Mrs. Myrna	Winfield
		5	George, Mrs. Iola M.	Winfield
		6	Cripps, Mrs. Shirley	Winfield
		7	Sherburne, Mrs. Virginia	Winfield
		8	Ewart, Mr. Leslie	Winfield
		9	Andersen, Mr. Keith A.	Winfield
		10	Geddes, Mr. Donald W.	Winfield
	Vice-Principal	11	Metcalfe, Mr. Lester R.	Winfield
	Principal	12	Smith, Mr. Walden	Winfield
		Shop	Horne, Mr. Hugh W.	Winfield
		Home Ec.	Davis-Russell, Miss Bette	Winfield

STAFF OF TEACHERS 1962-1963 COUNTY OF WETASKIWIN NO. 10

NO.	SCHOOL	GRADES	NAME OF TEACHER	ADDRESS
4566	<u>ALDER FLATS</u>	1	Cook, Mrs. Ruth	Alder Flats
		2	Blades, Miss Elaine	Alder Flats
		3-4	Robinson, Mrs. Lois	Alder Flats, Box 99
		5-6	Gillespie, Mrs. Madeline	Alder Flats
		7-8	Olson, Mrs. Anna	Alder Flats
		9	Forchuk, Mrs. Wilma	Alder Flats
		10-11	Ross, Mr. Nevin	Alder Flats
	Principal			
4985	<u>MINNEHIK</u>	1-2	Guard, Mrs. Marvel	Buck Lake
		3-4	Bjornson, Mrs. Myrtle	Buck Lake
		5-6	Gustafson, Mrs. Myrtle	Buck Lake
		7-8	Fullerton, Mrs. Esther	Buck Lake
	Principal			
43-4	<u>WINFIELD</u>	1	Kryger, Mrs. Sarah	Winfield
		2	Marshall, Mrs. Elsie	Winfield
		3	Borden, Mrs. Mary	Winfield
		4	Baker, Mrs. Joan	Winfield
		5	DeGraff, Mrs. Violet	Winfield
		6	Sanders, Mrs. Helen	Winfield
		7	Sherburne, Mrs. Virginia	Hoadley
		8	Sanders, Mr. Ray W.	Winfield
		9	Baker, Mr. Arnold	Winfield
		10	MacNeill, Mr. John E.	Winfield
		11	Metcalf, Mr. Lester R.	Winfield
		12	Smith, Mr. Walden	Winfield
		Shop	Foster, Mr. Frederick	Winfield
	Vice-Principal			
	Principal			
		Part time	Cripps, Mrs. Shirley	Winfield

STAFF OF TEACHERS 1961-1962 COUNTY OF WETASKIWIN NO. 10

SCHOOL NAME OF TEACHER

ALDER FLATS

Madeline Gillespie
 Mrs. L. Johnson
 Wilma L. Forchuk (Mrs.)
 Mr. J. N. Ross (Principal)
 Mrs. A. L. Olsen
 Mrs. L. Robinson
 Mrs. Ruth Cook
 Elaine Blades

MINNEHIK

Maria J. Young
 Marvel Guard (Mrs.)
 Mrs. Myrtle L. Bjornson
 Mrs. Esther Fullerton (Principal)
 Helen M. Sanders

WINFIELD

Mrs. S. A. Kryger
 Mrs. Elsie F. Marshall
 Mrs. Mary Jane Borden
 Mrs. Shirley Cripps
 Violet DeGraff
 Mrs. Ethel Gillies
 Mrs. I. V. Sherburne
 Ray Sanders
 Walden Smith (Mr.) Principal
 A. Baker (Mr. Arnold)

STAFF OF TEACHERS 1960-1961 COUNTY OF WETASKIWIN NO. 10

NO.	SCHOOL	GRADES	NAME OF TEACHER	ADDRESS
4566	<u>ALDER FLATS</u>	1	Mrs. Ruth Cook	Alder Flats
		2	Miss Norma Hirsekorn	Alder Flats
		3-4	Miss Lois Tennant	Alder Flats
		5-6	Mr. Kenneth Nelson	Alder Flats
		7-8	Mrs. Anne Olson	Alder Flats
		9	Mrs. Wilma Forchuk	Alder Flats
		Principal	Mr. J. N. Ross	Alder Flats
4985	<u>MINNEHIK</u>	1-2	Mrs. Marvel Guard	Buck Lake
		3-4	Mrs. Thelma Norman	Winfield
		5-6	Mrs. Esther Fullerton	Buck Lake
		7-8	Mr. C. H. Byers	Buck Lake
4304	<u>WINFIELD</u>	1	Mrs. Sarah Kryger	Winfield
		2	Mrs. Elsie Marshall	Winfield
		3	Mrs. Mary Borden	Winfield
		4	Mrs. Shirley Cripps	Winfield
		5	Mrs. Violet DeGraff	Winfield
		6	Mrs. Doris Becker	Winfield
		7	Mrs. Virginia Sherburne	Hoadley
		8	Mrs. Helen Schumacher	Winfield
		9	Miss Alice O'Dwyer	Winfield
		10	Mrs. Helen McMillan	Winfield
		Vice-Principal	Mr. Allister McKay	Winfield
		Principal	Mr. Walden Smith	Winfield
		Shop	Mr. Ivan Jenkins	Winfield
		Home Ec.	Mrs. Valaria Whittaker	Winfield

STAFF OF TEACHERS 1959-1960 COUNTY OF WETASKIWIN NO. 10

NO.	GRADES	SCHOOL	NAME OF TEACHER	ADDRESS
4566	1	<u>ALDER FLATS</u>	Mrs. Ruth Cook	Alder Flats
	2		Mrs. Lucy V. Good	Alder Flats
	3-4		Mrs. Laura B. Matlock	Alder Flats
	5-6		Mr. Kenneth Nelson	Alder Flats
	7-8		Mrs. Anne Olson	Alder Flats
	9-10	Principal	Mr. J. N. Ross	Alder Flats
4985	1-2	<u>MINNEHIK</u>	Mrs. Marvel Guard	Winfield
	3-4		Mrs. Florence Waterman	Buck Lake
	5-6		Mrs. Esther Fullerton	Buck Lake
	7-9	Principal	Mr. Edward Rockarts	Buck Lake
4304	1	<u>WINFIELD</u>	Mrs. Sarah Kryger	Winfield
	2		Mrs. Elsie Marshall	Winfield
	3		Mrs. Mary Lasell	Winfield
	4		Mrs. Shirley Cripps	Winfield
	5		Mrs. Violet DeGraff	Winfield
	6		Mrs. Angeline Ritten	Winfield
	7		Mrs. Virginia Sherburne	Hoadley
	8		Miss Ida Wegelin	Winfield
	9		Mr. Murray MacKenzie	Winfield
	10-11	Vice-Princ. Principal	Mr. Walden Smith	Winfield

Shop
10

Mr. Ivan Jenkins
Miss Lena Lessard

Winfield
Winfield

----- STAFF OF TEACHERS 1958-1959 COUNTY OF WETASKIWIN NO. 10-----

NO.	SCHOOL	GRADES	NAME OF TEACHER	ADDRESS
4566	<u>ALDER FLATS</u>	1	Mrs. Ruth Cook	Alder Flats
		2-3	Mrs. Swea McGladrie	Alder Flats
		3-4	Mrs. Doris Stafford	Alder Flats
		5-6	Miss Wilma Schernus	Alder Flats
		7-8	John Yaremko	Alder Flats
4985	Principal <u>MINNEHIK</u>	9-10	W. A. McGladrie	Alder Flats
		1-2	Mrs. Marvel Guard	Winfield
		3-5	Mrs. Esther Fullerton	Buck Lake
		6-10	Mr. James Nevin Ross	Buck Lake
4304	Principal <u>WINFIELD</u>	1	Mrs. Sarah Kryger	Winfield
		2	Mrs. Elsie Marshall	Winfield
		3	Mrs. Mary Lasell	Winfield
		4	Mrs. Dorothy Doyle	Winfield
		5	Mrs. Violet DeGraff	Winfield
		6	Mrs. Doris Becker	Winfield
		7	Mrs. Virginia Sherburne	Hoadley
		8	Miss Ida Wegelin	Winfield
		9	Murray MacKenzie	Winfield
		Shop	Mr. Ivan Jenkins	Winfield
		Home Ec.	Mrs. Nick Chepil	Winfield
		10		
	Vice-Principal Principal	11	Nick Chepil	Winfield
		12	Walden Smith	Winfield

STAFF OF TEACHERS 1957-1958 COUNTY OF WETASKIWIN NO. 10

NO.	SCHOOL	GRADES	NAME OF TEACHER	ADDRESS
4566	<u>ALDER FLATS</u>	1	Mrs. Ruth Cook	Alder Flats
		2-3	Mrs. Swea McGladrie	Alder Flats
		3-4	Mrs. Doris Stafford	Alder Flats
		5-6	Miss Marian Knox	Alder Flats
		7-8	Mr. John Yaremko	Alder Flats
4985	Principal <u>MINNEHIK</u>	9-10	Mr. W. A. McGladrie	Alder Flats
		1-3	Mrs. Marvel Guard	Winfield
		3, 4, 5	Mrs. Esther Fullerton	Buck Lake
		6, 7, 8	Mr. J. N. Ross	Buck Lake
4304	<u>WINFIELD</u>	1	Mrs. Sarah Kryger	Winfield
		2	Miss Ursula Gerloff	Winfield
		3	Mrs. Mary Jane Lasell	Winfield
		4	Mrs. Dorothy Doyle	Winfield
		5	Miss Judith Jackson	Winfield
		6	Miss Elizabeth Holmes	Winfield
		7A	Mrs. Evelyn Hutchinson	Winfield
		7B	Mrs. Virginia Sherburne	Hoadley
		8	Mrs. Florence Fasula	Winfield
		9	Mr. David Thomas	Winfield
		Vice-Principal	Mr. Herman Dorin	Winfield
		10-11	Mrs. William Parker	Winfield
	Principal	Home Ec.	Mr. William Parker	Winfield
		Shop	Mr. Walden Smith	Winfield
		12		

STAFF OF TEACHERS 1956-1957 COUNTY OF WETASKIWIN NO. 10

NO.	SCHOOL	GRADES	NAME OF TEACHER	ADDRESS
4566	<u>ALDERFLATS</u>	1	Mrs. Ruth Cook	Alder Flats
		2-3	Mrs. Pearl Kroening	Alder Flats
		3-4	Mrs. Sarah Kryger	Alder Flats
		5-6	Mrs. Doris Becker	Alder Flats
		7-8	Mr. Fred Shydowski	Alder Flats
		9-10	Mr. Stephen Urchak	Alder Flats
4985	<u>MINNEHIK</u>	1-2	Mrs. Marvel Guard	Winfield
		3, 4, 5		
		6, 7, 8	Mrs. Esther Fullerton	Buck Lake
4304	<u>WINFIELD</u>	1	Miss Irene Major	Winfield
		2	Miss Sonia Popowich	Winfield
		3	Mrs. Ethel Gillies	Yeoford
		4	Mrs. Dorothy Doyle	Winfield
		5	Miss Judith Jackson	Winfield
		6	Mrs. Olga Young	Winfield
		7	Mrs. Evelyn Hutchinson	Winfield
		8	Mrs. Virginia Sherburne	Winfield
		9	Mr. Stanley Johnson	Winfield
		10	Mr. David Thomas	Winfield
		11-12	Mr. Walden Smith	Winfield

STAFF OF TEACHERS 1955-1956 COUNTY OF WETASKIWIN NO. 10

NO.	SCHOOL	GRADES	NAME OF TEACHER	ADDRESS
4566	<u>ALDER FLATS</u>	1-2	Mrs. Ruth Cook	Alder Flats
		3-4	Mrs. Sarah Kryger	Alder Flats
		5-7	Hubert Bessette	Alder Flats
		8-10	Ed. G. Kluczny	Alder Flats
4985	<u>MINNEHIK</u>	1-3	Mrs. Marvel Guard	Winfield
		4-6	Mrs. Esther Fullerton	Buck Lake
		7-9	Louis O. Burger	Buck Lake
4304	<u>WINFIELD</u>	1	Irene Major	Winfield
		2	Sonia Popowich	Winfield
		3	Mrs. Ethel Gillies	Yeoford
		4	Mrs. Dorothy Doyle	Winfield
		5	Mrs. Elsie Osbak	Winfield
		6	Mrs. Olga Young	Winfield
		7		Winfield
		8	Mrs. Betty Casebeer	Winfield
		9	Stanley Johnson	Winfield
		10-12	Walden Smith	Winfield
		10-12	Fred Meleshko	Winfield

TEACHING STAFF 1954-1955 WETASKIWIN SCHOOL DIVISION NO. 36

ALDER FLATS

Mr. Edmund G. Kluczny
 Mrs. Ruth Cook
 Mr. Hubert Bessette
 Mrs. Eva J. Turner

MINNEHIK

Mrs. Marvel E. Guard
 Esther S. Fullerton and Arthur H. Cumberland

WINFIELD

Mr. Fred Meleshko Principal
C. J. Burroughs
Elsie Oshak
Irene Major
Mrs. Dorothy Doyle
Mrs. Ethel Gillies
Miss Dorothy Engert
Mrs. Ruby Marshall
M. L. Seward
William Sawchuk
Walden Smith

ED THOMAS

Ed Thomas came to Alberta from Ontario in 1911. He first came to Wainwright and homesteaded at Heath, near Wainwright. He farmed in the area for several years. He married Amy White, who was a music teacher from London, England. They had one son, Philip. Mrs. Thomas died when Philip was about two years old. Mr. Thomas moved to Edson a few years later, where Phil received most of his education. He drove a dray wagon there for many years. They then went to Calgary. In 1940, Phil moved to the Yeoford district to take up farming. He started from scratch, nothing cleared or broken. Two years later, after making a good start he joined the Royal Canadian Engineers, and also got married to Gwyneth Gronow, August 12, 1942. Mr. Thomas came to Yeoford to take care of the farm while Phil was overseas.

He loved his horses and finally had his six horses to work. He was happy working with the soil and was an active farmer until well past his seventies. He had many a near runaway, when the mower cut into a hornets nest or some gun happy hunter was shooting birds on the road. He loved his two grandchildren, Jimmy and Barbara, especially Barbie, as she also loved horses. It was a common sight to see Ed driving a team with three year old Barbie on his knee also "driving horses". She can also handle horses well. At one time, Grandad had to walk quietly into the middle of six horses to pick up Barbie who was just toddling at the time, because she was feeding them. She says she was not afraid, tho' Grandad certainly was.

Mr. Thomas was active until about a year ago in 1971, when he died at the age of 79. He and Phil acquired a section of land and now Ed has passed on and both of his grandchildren have left home so there are only Phil and his wife left to carry on.

THE WILLARD IRVING THOMAS FAMILY

BY

Burrus Thomas, Dorothy Buickerood and Kenetha Merrill

In the spring of 1906, the Rev. Thomas, a man in his mid-fifties, with \$1,000.00, plus the sale of all his goods, resigned his pastorate of the Christian Church of Burlington, Kansas, and with his wife, Augusta, 19 years his junior, his six sons and three daughters, set out for Canada.

We took with us only our clothing and bedding, a baby buggy for Mark, six months old, a small rocking chair, the sewing machine, Father's tool chest, a 16 gauge semi-hammerless shotgun and the few treasures Mrs. Thomas could pack in a small trunk. Joyce carried the head of the sewing machine all the way in his hands, lest it come to some harm in the baggage department. We went via Kansas City, St. Paul, MooseJaw and Calgary to Wetaskiwin by emigrant train with board slat seats and very primitive accommodations.

Leaving the family in the Government House provided for immigrants, Father with Ozro and Joyce, went looking for land in the Battle Lake area. Father's homestead, the "Home Place", was NE 26-46-2-W5. Ozro and Joyce homesteaded the W $\frac{1}{2}$ 24-46-2-W5, Ozro had the northwest quarter.

The two day trip to Battle Lake and the Bunney's homestead, with a hired wagon and skittish team, was a rough one. Mrs. Thomas and the children walked behind the wagon most of the way. Only a level stretch of road ahead and extreme fatigue could persuade any of them to ride awhile. We reached Goodhands at noon and stayed that night at Falun. The next day we made it to Hagen's, or possibly Bunney's. One incident of that day was when the wagon got stuck in a mud hole. Papa went on to a homesteaders place and got the man to come with his work ox, a big roan bull. The horses were afraid to pull behind the ox, so it pulled wagon

horses and all out of the mud alone.

When we came into the kitchen of the Bunney log house, Mrs. Bunney, a woman with very fair skin and wavy silver hair, dropped to her knees and opened her arms to us, as many of us children as she could take to her heart, even before she greeted our tired mother.

We stayed several weeks in a tent in the Bunney yard while Father, Vance and Burrus were beginning the clearing on our timber claim. Ozro and Joyce were working at Rowley's saw mill on Pigeon Lake. Later we lived in our tent on the corner of our claim while the men were cutting logs for our first house, and digging a well. Mrs. Thomas lived in constant terror of one of us younger ones being lost in the woods. We were ordered to stay within a triangle made by the tent, the survey holes at the corner of our land and a hole lined with a stone jar in which to store fish caught from the lake.

While we lived in the tent we had a little "Topsy" stove, just a round bowl with two small lids on top. When it rained it was almost impossible to keep a fire going. By the time we moved into our cabin, the boys had carried home from Hagen's, a real stove with four lids oven and fire box in front with many "eyes" below it, which glowed beautifully when the fire was going.

Several neighbours came for the house raising; Mr. Bunney and grown sons, Ilo, Ivo and Jap, and with them Mrs. Bunney. Mr. Eastman came, and one or two of his sons. I think there were more but none of us remembers just who. The house was built 18' x 24' inside measure. Burrus says the logs for the walls were cut, drawn to the site by one of Mr. Eastman's big oxen and all laid that day. He adds, "The ridge pole and two other logs to support the roof were put up by Papa and us boys." Poplar poles made the roof itself. The long cracks between the logs were crinked with clay mixed with hay and deer-moss. The house had a window at each end and a door in each side.

The first well was dug about 100 yards west and north of the house. It was only about six feet deep. The water came almost to the top and was always a little yellow from clay in its banks.

Shortly after we settled on the homestead, Mr. Thomas bought a little Red Devon cow from the Hagen's. She was very homesick and would run away at every opportunity, until after Father bought another Red Devon cow which we called Cherry. Other cows came and went, but we kept Cherry all the time we were on the homestead.

Mr. Thomas named the schoolhouse, built in 1908, the Cree Valley School District. The first teacher was Miss Linnie Schnarr, then but 15 years old. After her were Mr. Bowles, from Nova Scotia, Mr. Sullivan, Miss Darragh. The last teacher before the Thomases left Canada was Miss Edna Abercrombie. None of these school terms was as much as nine months long, and several held through the summer on through Christmas time, avoiding the coldest part of the winter and taking up again towards spring. The pupils the first year were the Papineau children; Effie, Edith, Bertie and Freddie. Of the Eastman children there were: Nat, Frances, Martha, Jimmy and Annie. A younger sister, Nellie, came to school later. Of the Bunney's only Ben and Madge came. Of the Thomases there were; Vance, Burrus, Allegra, Dorothy and a girl, at first named Kenneth and later renamed Kennetha. Later Macklin became old enough to attend. Jimmy Nelson came at least part of the time. In another year or two, Sophie Kourtzman came, also an adopted son of the Hammett's, called Willie, I think. The Nielson children came also.

Lowell Irving Thomas, born Nov. 7, 1908, was the first white child born at Battle Lake. Mrs. Kinsman, a nurse, was sent for but the baby was delivered by his father before she got there. He was a fine baby and very hardy.

During the first two winters, Mr. Thomas did what he could to teach his children at home, teaching or reading to his children by the hour. While they listened, Mother and the older children would whittle or knit. In the second winter, Mr. Thomas made a shingle brake and set to work with his draw knife, making pine shingles for the frame house he was to build in the spring. He had already begun making furniture: a long dining table, chairs and beds to replace the bunk beds.

To earn money almost from the first, Mr. Thomas, Ozro and Joyce and later, Vance, worked away from home at every opportunity. I remember Rowley's Saw Mill and Ferguson's Saw Mill, both on the shore of Pigeon Lake. As time went on, the older boys went farther away to work, catching rides or walking from one job to another. They worked in mines, and helped build railroads, the telegraph and telephone lines. In summer they might herd family cows on the open prairie by day and bring them home in the evening. They could all handle carpenter tools. Joyce was very good with breaking and training horses. Eventually, he trained horses for the "Mounties". Between jobs there was always work waiting to be done on the three claims. Wherever they went, there was road work to be done. It was hard, axe and pick and shovel work, team and "slip" or grader work, daylight to dark, dry or wet. And there were always fence lines needing building. One's strength and the length of daylight were the only limits to the hours men worked, and horses and oxen too.

Of course, at home there always had to be a chore boy and that could be a burden on pre-teen and early teenage boys. Water and wood to carry, hay to put up, stock to care for, even hunting for fresh meat when nothing at home was ready to butcher.

Whether at home or away working, Father tried to follow his calling. He would walk long distances to town or to where even a few had gathered, to preach. He carried a canvas packsack on his back in which to carry mail or small packages, from Westeros, the nearest post office until the coming of the Heacocks in 1908.

Hagen's kept a small general store after we got here, and Heacocks started a store after they came. The settlers came in about this order: Eastman, Bunney, Papineau, Thomas, Pete Peirson, Heacock and Hammett. By this time, many others were coming in around Battle Lake. Kinsmans, Ken Hunter came later and built a blacksmith shop. Pete Peirson was a big Swede and built quite a few hewed log houses. He was wonderful with a broad axe. One of the houses he built was the Heacocks, later owned by the Hunters and still standing in 1962.

Mr. Papineau had the first sawmill near Battle Lake. There was also a shingle mill over near Westeros. In 1910, the Thomases built a sawmill on the home place and ran it for two years. In 1911 the Fullerton-Fawcett sawmill and general store was built at the lower end of the lake. Kennetha recalls the family visiting the Fullerton-Fawcett setup one winter. Some of the buildings were at the foot of the lake and some on top the side hill south of the lake. There was a great iced chute down which the saw logs, from on the hill, were sent sliding down to the lake to be hauled across to the mill on the ice that winter or rafted over in the summer.

Mr. Thomas died May 17, 1909, after several months of very painful illness of cancer of the stomach. He died at home, some weeks after a trip to Wetaskiwin hospital where doctors advised that surgery would be of no avail.

Mrs. Thomas was left with ten children, the youngest only seven months old, the eldest half past 21, and she not yet forty. The four elder sons assured their mother that they could carry on and keep the family together. Ozro, Joyce and Vance continued to work out and Burrus stayed on at home to take care of the homesteads. Ozro bought a stationary steam engine and sawmill and in the next two years logged off the home place and considerable leased land. By the time the easily available timber had been logged off, Mrs. Thomas had made a decision of her own. The children were growing up fast and would soon be ready for high school in town. Mother had hoped that her children could go to a college supported by our church in a suburb of Lincoln, Nebraska so she persuaded Ozro on the sale of our mill, to take her and the six younger children to Kansas, to her mother's. After almost three years in Kansas, we finally arrived at Bethany, Nebraska and settled down to high school and college.

After the Cree Valley School was built, it became the center of the social life. There were special programs put on by the school children, and evening affairs such as literary society or box socials. Burrus recalls one social when Ivo Bunney wanted to buy Effie Papineau's box. A bunch of Fullerton loggers canged up and had one of their number bid against Ivo just for the heck of it, until the bid went to \$29.00, but Ivo held on until he got his box.

Picnics were held at Mount Butte and near the beach at Battle Lake. Besides the abundant dinner, there would be races, jumping, wrestling and bronco busting. As the younger people grew up there were dancing parties, mostly square dancing, a dilemma for the young Thomases as their church disapproved of dancing at that time. Some danced. Some didn't.

Joyce settled in the Houston area and his descendants are still there. He died Nov. 10, 1958.

Ozro's descendants are in Mississippi though he died in Los Angeles in 1956.

Vance is now retired and living in Indianapolis, Ind.

Burrus became a minister, now retired, in the St. Louis area.

Macklin has been in education work all of his life, most of it in Chicago.

Mark died in May 27, 1961.

Lowell is a bone surgeon in Indianapolis.

Allegra's (Mrs. G. H. Hayes) major interest was music. She lives in Lincoln, Nebraska and has six children and several grandchildren scattered over the country.

Dorothy (Mrs. Buickerood) of Espanola, New Mexico became a short story writer under the name of Dorothy Thomas.

Kenneth's (Mrs. Richard Merrill) interest was art and she still does a watercolor landscape or portrait sketch now and then. She lives in Lincoln, Nebraska.

The whole family owes a great debt to Mrs. Thomas, who was determined that her family should be well educated. She kept a home together until each was ready to launch out on his own; and she did sewing for others, to earn while keeping the home. At 55, she went to night school and took shorthand and typing, and for a time held a job as secretary. She died in 1954 at the age of 84, at Allegra's home in Lincoln.

WILLIAM THOMAS - WINFIELD - HISTORY

We homesteaded SE $\frac{1}{4}$ Section 5, Township 47, Range 6 - West of the 5th Meridian on March 7, 1933. On November 6, 1933, we arrived at our new home on the north end of Buck Lake from Delia, Alberta. Ida, David, the goat and myself travelled for 6 days in a covered "Bennett Buggy" pulled by a team called Ginger and Tudor. The following spring my brother Ed, his wife May, three daughters along with my parents, Grandma and Grandpa Thomas, joined us and took the homestead that cornered us to the south-east. In May, Anton was born.

The first winter and summer was spent in a lumber shack among the pine trees. That fall I had gone out hunting and saw nothing. At supper that night Grandpa asked, "Is Tudor here or down Eddies?" I said that she was down Eddies. He said, "I thought so. What 'horse' was walking around the yard this afternoon?" Apparently it was a moose - the one I was looking for. We moved into our new log house during the next winter.

At this time, Minnehik was the post office and we had seven miles to go for our groceries and mail. The road to Minnehik was usually bad during the summer - especially the "Muskeg" between home and Eddies and the "Cut" between Simmons' and Drader's Mill. The Tippings kept the post office at this time and also ran the store. There was a small log school at Mr. Parker's homestead and Drader started a saw mill about this time about 3 miles from Minnehik, which was later called Buck Lake. Grandma, who was over 70, regularly walked to the store and back carrying the groceries, the mail and sometimes a gallon of coal oil. The mail for Buck Creek was carried from Buck Lake by Mr. Fennycook by packhorse through our yard at this time. Neighbours were few. Except for the Petersons, most were bachelors like Hjelmar Bjur, Herman Lind, Joe Dusta, Coblem, and Simmons. Out on the Washout Creek were Tuttle and McDougal. McDougal always carried an axe for emergencies (and often little treats for the



Back Row: David, Daphne & Anton. Front Row: Mr. & Mrs. W. Thomas.

children).

Times were hard during the first couple of years. The first job I got was working on the road between Pendryl and Buck Lake. A little later I spent two winters skidding logs at Etter-McDougall's Camp One. In December 1936 Grandpa passed away and was buried in Maywood Cemetery. The next spring Grandma went back to England.

Carroll Brothers bought the timber around the homestead and Gus Peterson got the contract for logging it and taking the logs across the lake to the mill. From then until we left for Pendryl, we logged in the winter and helped take the logs across to Calhoun's Bay, where Carroll's mill was, in the summer. Two scows worked on the lake hauling logs across; Carroll's and Etter-McDougall's which took logs to Letourneau's mill near Maywood.

Daphne was born in the spring of 1938. Nurse Conroy was in attendance at both Anton's and Daphne's births. When we first arrived, the lake was full of fish and the woods

abounded with wild game. One day, Ida went down to Eddies to look for our old black cow, Betty. By the muskeg she saw a black form coming towards her through the bushes. She thought, "Good, there is Betty, I will go down the road and drive her home". When "Betty" stepped out, it was a black bear which sniffed her and calmly walked on. Ida ran all the way home, terrified.

During the late '30s and early '40s there were a lot of forest fires in the country. At one time the fires came right up to the buildings surrounding us and there was no way to get out. We fought fires all that day and managed to save all our buildings. When we went into the house that night it was almost empty. Anton (aged 7) and Daphne (aged 3) had thrown everything they could pick up, down the well by the house. They had heard Ida and I talking that if the fire came near we could save our things that way. This they effectively carried out.

The last year we were at Buck Lake, we converted the old "Bennett Buggy" into a two wheeled cart to send Eddie's and my children to Buck Lake School where Mrs. Doyle was teaching. (Anton had started grade 1 and David had finished grade 3 with correspondence lessons before this). The roads were generally bad. One day Anton fell out and the cart rolled over him without injuring him because the mud cushioned him.

In 1942, we bought Alf Burkland's homestead at Pendryl - the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ Section 35 - Township 45 - Range 5 - West of the 5th Meridian. We moved there so that the children would be able to attend school. Mr. Barron was the teacher then. The three children attended Pendryl School up to grade 8 then they went to High School in Winfield. By the time David was ready for high school the roads had been improved. A bus for high school students ran from Buck Lake to Winfield. David won the Governor-General's Medal for the highest marks in grade nine for the Wetaskiwin and Strawberry School Divisions. He later became a teacher and was the last teacher at Pendryl School. While Anton was in high school, he became well known in the area for his baseball pitching.

In 1953, the children from Pendryl and other areas were centralized to Winfield School which included all grades from 1 to 12. In 1957, the new school addition with gymnasium, shop, etc., opened with Walden Smith as principal. I became the caretaker and continued there until my retirement in 1970. I still make my home in Winfield.

Daphne married Dick Betlamini and lives on the old Betlamini homestead 3 miles south of Pendryl Store. Their three children, Sheryl, Denise, and Joe attend Winfield School.

Anton married Cathy Whelan when he was employed as a mechanic in Uranium City. He and Cathy live in Edmonton with their three children, Brian, Danny and Janice. He is a welder with Bannister Construction.

David married Carin Klemme from Camrose. He is a supervisor of guidance for the schools in St. Albert where he lives. Their two children are Anne and Kendell.

I have seen this country grow up a great deal in the nearly 40 years that I have lived here. I am thankful for having a little part in helping it grow up. I regret that the beautiful forested country that I moved into is no longer here. As the non-agricultural land was logged off, it should have been reforested. Today we would be nearly ready to reap a second crop of timber. Parts could still be reforested and become more valuable - it isn't too late.

BILL THOMPSON

Bill Thompson first came out west from Alliston, Ontario in the fall of 1955 and stayed three months. He returned in the fall of 1957 to work for Archie Oldfield and then for Marshall Willard at Milo, Alberta for five years. It was here that he met Marshall's brother, Hank, who had been World Champion Chuckwagon driver. In 1962 Bill started his own outfit and has raced as far east as Halifax, N.S. and south to Cheyenne, Wyoming.

On November 6, 1965, he married May Webster of Airdrie and farmed at Airdrie until the spring of 1969 when they moved to Westeros for one year before coming to Yeoford to the SW6-47-2 W5, our present farm. Our one son, Shawn, was born April 11, 1970.

Bill is front wagon.





Bill Thompson, Westeros.

OLE THOMPSON

Ole had an adjacent lease on NW 6-47-3-W5 and farmed it for several years with horses. Then he bought NW 5-47-3-W5 where he built a log shack that burned when a bush fire swept through. He re-built on the SW corner of the quarter and with very few necessities lived there until the fall of 1970.

The last several years he walked 7 miles into Winfield regularly. In earlier years he hauled firewood to Winfield to sell and after he returned home in the evening he would walk to Norbuck to buy his groceries. He also worked for a lumber mill and got great enjoyment from lifting a log alone if he chose to do so.

JOHN E. THRASHER

Dad, John E. Thrasher, came to Winfield in the late fall of 1930. He and Albert MacKenzie had been working on a road crew in Saskatchewan and when they wrapped it up for the winter, they both came back and struck out for Winfield. Dad took his homestead which had been abandoned by a Mrs. Martin. There was a house with a dirt floor and not much of a roof. Albert Mackenzie and he batched and Albert filed on his homestead directly north of Dad's. He built a neat little house (assisted by Dad) completely of logs. I think any lumber, like for floors, etc., was from whatever mill he may have worked at. After Albert left his place, it was occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Ole Quam and young Ole. We, Mrs. J. E. Thrasher Olive, John and Nellie, moved out to Winfield in July of 1931. Nellie and Olive didn't stay but I, J. E. Thrasher Jr., was hired as school teacher in the Winfield School which was located out past the trestle about where Etter's house was. I stayed one year during which time I filed on the quarter section just east of Dad's place. There was a lovely spring at the bottom of the hill below where we had built the house where Vivian and I first lived on our own. When we left in 1937 to go to Vancouver, the house was taken down and moved to Winfield. It was the basis of the house Lou and Nellie now live in, although when it was on the homestead, it was much smaller and colder.

This is about all I can think of at this time although as I write there were many things that bounced through my mind. It seems like a hundred years ago. Never a week-end went by without my banjo being put into use. I now have a different one which is better than the one I carted to dances down there. I don't play much only when Dennis comes up from Calgary and we have a session or two.

Vivian's Dad, Syd Carter, did build the first Post Office in Winfield. It was of logs and sat on the back of the lot where you have your Drug Store. He then built on the front of the lot a building which was half post office and half Drug Store.

LENNARD THRONDSOIN FAMILY

I, Eileen Becker, came to Winfield in 1940 to work for Ivan Bjur and then Mr. and Mrs. Etter. After that I took a job at Camp One cooking at night for Etter-McDougall. At that time, Lennard Throndsen was driving truck for Algar Lyseng of Camrose. He was hauling lumber and logs at McDougalls too.



Lennard Thronsdon dozing out for Winfield curling rink.

On July 16th, 1942 we were married. To this marriage were born five children, Diane, Norma, Carol, Brian and Della. In 1946, Lennard was engaged in caterpillar work at Kingman, Alberta. Then later, 1949 to 1952, moved to Maywood, Alberta. He hauled logs and lumber with the caterpillar for Dan Haley. His hired men were Walter Newman of Ponoka, Bernard Wolfe of Ponoka district, Don Rassmussen of Camrose, Ray Vigen of Grand Prairie and Cordell Becker. Later on, he did cat work for the farmers of Winfield, Buck Lake, Alder Flats, Camrose, Kingman, Edberg and Meeting Creek. The cat caught fire on the Micku Place at Buck Lake while working, and burned up.

On January 26th, 1956, Lennard applied for Fireman's Certificate to fire boiler at Violet Grove for Brinker Hoff Rig 16. In the spring of 1958, he took mechanics, with Underwoods and Sand and Gravel Co. of Edmonton where he stayed until the time of his illness in June 1959.

He passed away February 3rd, 1960. He was born November 6th, 1907 at Camrose North District. We had bought the Earle McKenzie Place - SW 16-46-4-W5, in the fall of 1949. In the spring of 1950, the house was rebuilt by Axel Hedlund of Buck Lake. I still live on the home place.

The children are all married but one. Diane married Gene Kramer of Buck Lake. He works for Evan Jones of Red Deer driving cat. They live at Rimbey in the Trailer Court. Norma married Derryl Matthews of Port Albernie, B. C. He is a sawyer for MacMullin and Bloedel. They have four children. Carol married Paul Glenmer of Alder Flats. He farms six miles south of Alder Flats, also trucking oil at Swan Hills. Brian married Linda Melin of Alder Flats. He works for Mannix of Fort McMurray. He drives one of their units, or a buggy. They have one child. Della is still at home going to school taking Grade Ten at Winfield school. I have been taking care of welfare children at my home for the last four and one half years. I have taken in five children so far.

LOUIS THROWER - ALDER FLATS

Born in Avonlea, Saskatchewan. Moved to Alder Flats in 1934. Married Lillian Stowell November 1935. Served in the armed forces in World War Two from 1939 to 1945. After the war he worked at various jobs, in sawmills, truck driving, construction work in the oil fields. Sold the farm in 1954 and moved to the hamlet of Alder Flats. The farm is now owned by Floyd Crawford.

He drove a school bus from 1960 to 1970 then sold the bus to Darrell Hammond. He is now working for Hayduks trucking.

Children - 5. 1. Doloras Ann - Born 21 Aug., 1936, died Nov. 1936. 2. Marlene Louise - Born 30 March, died Aug. 1, 1961. 3. Lewis Howard - Born 21 July 1940, died Nov. 1971. 4. Judith Iris - Born 20 Feb. 1947. 5. Faith Lorraine - born Nov. 28, 1949.



Ray Stowell, Ronald Blades, Howard Stowell, Grant & Alvin Stowell

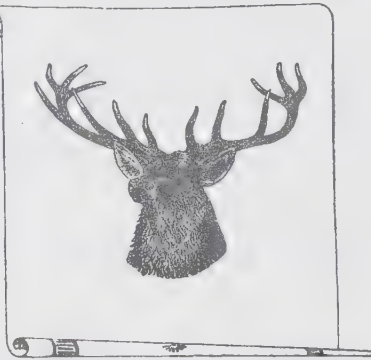


Louis Thrower and Family



Mrs. Annie Stowell

THE NORTHWESTERN
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THIS CERTIFIES THAT

E. H. Walter Tipping
has honorably completed our Course of Study in Taxidermy and having satisfactorily
passed the examination prescribed by

This School
is pronounced Worthy of Graduation and entitled to this

DIPLOMA

In Witness Whereof our signatures are hereunto affixed.
Given at Omaha, Nebr., this 1st day of June 1906

A. D. Carpenter

PRESIDENT

J. W. Elwood

SECRETARY

W. M. WELCH & COMPANY CHICAGO

Mr. J. L. Tipping born February 20th, 1860. Died March 6th, 1936. Mrs. J. L. Tipping born February 28th, 1863. Died September 15th, 1942.

Advertisement of sale of property:

BIG SNAP ----- RANCH FOR SALE,

quick. 1440 acres improved Government leased land, unlimited range and hay. West of Wetaskiwin, near Buck Lake. Stock, machinery, tools, five roomed bungalow, furnished, \$3,500.00. Sacrifice sale, owing to sickness. Buyer must be British subject according to ranch regulations. J. L. Tipping, Wolf River Ranch, Minnehik, Alberta.

2-10-1-p

This is the notice that appeared in the newspaper when Mr. J. L. Tipping decided to give up the ranch at Wolfe River situated north-west of what later became the hamlet of Alder Flats. They moved back to Buck Lake, (Minnehik at that time) where he had formerly been Post Master. They had come to this area from Blackfalds in 1909 with their son, Dalton, and daughter, Mary.

Dalton became one of the best known and respected Rangers in the district. He was a great lover of the outdoors, spending many hours in the Brazeau and Blue Rapids country photographing animals in their natural habitation. He was the author of many articles that were published in sports magazines, and had some of the best pictures of wild animals ever taken. He was born at Orillia, Ontario, November 3rd, 1889. He died of pneumonia, January 14th, 1929.

Mary was born November 15th, 1891 at Winnipeg, died in November 1965.

The Tippings were the earliest settlers here that there is any record of and their activities are related in many stories in this book.



Left: Dalton Tipping. Right: J.L. Tipping. Wolf Creek Dolly Varden Trout. 1920's.



J.L. Tipping. Wolf Creek Ranch and Wolf Creek (post office) 1918.



Mrs. Tipping, Mary, Mr. Tipping & Dalton at their home on Wolfe River - 1921.



Dalton Tipping - Fire Ranger & Game Warden starting out on the job in the 1920's to 1930's.



1905

1955

GOLDEN JUBILEE
SENIOR CITIZEN AWARD

To all to whom these presents shall come:

*Know Ye That the People of Alberta have always
recognized and been truly appreciative of the Valuable
Contribution made to the Development of the Province
by the Pioneers and Senior Citizens thereof,
and That*

Mary A. J. MacCallum

*Having been a Resident of Alberta
during or before the Year of Our Lord
One Thousand Nine Hundred and Five
and now residing during the Celebration
of the Golden Jubilee of Alberta in the Province
of Alberta, is hereby awarded the Golden Jubilee
Senior Citizen Award of the Province of Alberta.*

*In Testimony Whereof, I have hereunto
set my hand and seal in the Year of Our Lord
One Thousand Nine Hundred and Fifty-Five,
for and on behalf of the People of Alberta.*

Premier of Alberta

Provincial Secretary

EDWARD TRABACK

Edward Traback started out from Leduc, Alberta, April 1st, 1923 with a team of horses, hayrack full of possessions and leading three cows. At this time, the family consisted of Mr. and Mrs. Traback and four children, Henry, Martha, Adolph and Alice, a baby of six months. Their destination was to be Buck Lake. They lived in the Kovar house approximately three years. Henry and Martha attended Maywood School during this time. In 1926 they moved out onto the homestead that Mr. Traback had filed on before they came. It was N. E. $\frac{1}{4}$ 10-46-5-W5.

Elsie and the twins, Helmet and Bill were born at the Kovar house. Donald was born at the homestead. The district nurse was away when it was time for the baby to be born. Neighbour ladies, Mrs. Wallbridge, Mrs. Gust Bjur, Mrs. Fraser and Mrs. Wm. Brown all came to help. As they could see that delivery would be very difficult, they sent for a doctor. This was done by Mr. Dick DeLong riding to Winfield to phone Dr. Henry at Bentley. He came to Winfield on a hand speed car then rode horseback through the mud to the Traback farm. This taking from Friday night till Monday morning. The baby arrived a few minutes before the doctor got there. He did what he could, then had that same terrible trip to face to get to Bentley again.

After moving to the home-stead, none of the children were able to attend school until Spruce Hill School district was formed in 1938.

Lily, the youngest child was born in 1931 and was seven years old when the school was built.

Henry lives at McBride, B. C., and works at a plywood factory, he has held this job for thirty years. He has three daughters. Martha married Axel Hansen, they have four children and live on a farm near Winfield. Adolph is deceased, and had four children. Alice lives in Vancouver and has one child. Elsie married Herb Plunkie. They live on a farm near Winfield and have four children. Helmet lives at Thorsby, Bill at Moose Jaw, has three children, Donald lives at Grande Prairie on a farm and has six children. Lily lives in Quesnel, B. C. and has five children.

TWIN LAKES

West Lake is one of the few lakes in Alberta and one of the deepest - suitable for adventure in deep scuba diving. In 1969, they revealed the presence of a fibre glass chicken anchored in the deepest part of the lake to an old boat. The fibre glass chicken was forty feet down to it's top and sixty-five feet to it's bottom. Divers have all seen good sized Kokanee Salmon and Rainbow Trout, which don't seem to like biting the hook out here, as well as a plentiful supply of perch, ling and jackfish.



East Twin Lake - May 14, 1961.

Wing Divers and Twenty Fathoms are two known clubs using the lake. Motor boats are now prohibited here. It has a soft mud bottom unsafe for swimming although gravel was hauled in to make a safe swimming area toward the east end. There is also jackfish in East Lake but it has an ashen substance floating in it, giving

a deceptively shallow appearance. Like it's twin to the west, it drops right off. Mineral springs feeding this lake are natural attractions for many wild animals looking for salt. The last few years the county of Wetaškiwin No. 10 built a road across the swamp to West Lake and on to East Lake with camping spots made at various points. Twin Lakes are situated on SE 9, S $\frac{1}{2}$ 10, SW 11-46-3-W5 with entrance at road allowance on west side of and across NW 10-46-3-W5.

C. TOMPKINS

Although Clarence Tomkins has taken out two homesteads in Alberta since his arrival in 1900 he is at heart a lumber man. His father owned a sawmill in Michigan but Clarence decided to try farming in Canada and filed on a homestead near Ponoka. Then in 1924 he moved to Oregon for four years.

In 1930 he filed his second homestead in the vicinity of Winfield. Instead of working the land he put up a small sawmill and began making lumber. After 16 years of cutting lumber he sold his mill and moved into Winfield in 1946.

Several times fires have swept the west country and more than a few sawmills ended

up nothing but ashes and blackened metal. But Tompkins was never burned out. Twice the bush fires were dangerously close when nature came to the rescue, once with about four inches of snow, the second time with a heavy rainfall.

Mr. Tompkins lives in retirement in Winfield, aged 92. Mrs. Tompkins passed away January 27th, 1972.

U.F.A. DISBANDED AND LIST OF SHAREHOLDER IN SCALE

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PRES. U.F.W.A.:-

MRS. R. PRICE, STETTLER

SECRETARY-TREASURER:-

MISS E. BIRCH

RENFREW BUILDING
CALGARY
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June 6th, 1936.

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MRS. WINIFRED ROSS, MILLET
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JUNIOR PRES:-
WILFRED HOPPINS, HUXLEY

Mr. Jack Goodkey,
Secretary, Maywood Local 1070,
Pendryl, Alta.

Dear Mr. Goodkey:

Please find receipt attached for your remittance of \$5.36, balance in the local treasury. We also have your minute books. These will be held in trust for one year and if the local reorganizes within that time will be returned.

If we can be of any assistance at any time in re-organizing, please do not hesitate to write us.

Yours sincerely,

Secretary

Our Motto: EQUITY

Nº 5169

CALGARY, Alberta, 193

RECEIVED From
of
the sum of Dollars
for

UNITED FARMERS OF ALBERTA

\$.... Per

200

Let ϕ holdens in
Winfield stock scale

[illegible]

EDWARD VELKJAR

Edward Velkjar was born August 28, 1888 in Denmark. He married Anna Jensen, April 13, 1913. Anna was born November 13, 1888, in Denmark. They had one child, Hans John, born June 4, 1916 in Esbjerg, Norway. Edward and Anna Velkjar moved from the Wolfville district, eleven miles east of Ponoka in June 1932 with a team of horses and wagon to a lease eight miles west of Alder Flats. They lived on the lease until the death of Edward in a hunting accident in the winter of 1939-1940. He is buried in the Alder Flats Cemetary. Anna then moved to the hamlet of Alder Flats. She married Sam Thebault in 1943 and still resides in Alder Flats. Son, Hans John, on August 3, 1946, married Ruby Iris Stowell (born February 20, 1923). Hans and Iris had four children, Edward Hans, born June 4, 1947. Donald Garry, born July 30, 1949. Thomas Samuel, born January 12, 1952 - died in a car accident at Fort St. James, January 17, 1971. Denise Ann, born December 26, 1961.

Hans and Iris lived at Alder Flats for the first few years of their marriage, then moved to Fort St. James, B. C. where they operate a summer resort at Pinci Lake.

ALFRED VIGEN



Bear Creek Mill - Buck Lake.
Cliff Vigen hauling logs.



Left to right: Alfred Vigen,
Phil Becker, Jim Miller.



Corduoy road north of Ken Smith-
son farm. Left to right: Chris
Bumgardner, Mike Bumgard,
Ernie Vigen on load.

Mr. Alfred Vigen and family came from Penroy, Montana with teams and wagons in 1919, and drove their cattle; settling at Nugent near Bluffton. The land, purchased from Phil Becker in a trade, had a small log house, probably built by Phil. In order to make a living, he went into the sawmill business with two partners, Arthur Ellingson and Phil Becker. Their first mill site was east of Winfield on Bear Creek in 1920. They sawed the lumber here, then hauled it south (picture) over the road they had to corduroy, and sold it in Rimbey.

In 1925, he broke up partnership and moved the mill to the northeast corner of Buck Lake but the name Bear Creek was retained. For several years, with Ernest and Clifford's help, they kept the mill running, also farming at Nugent. The younger children went to school at Maywood for a time (Vivian, Raymond, Ralph and Erma). The older ones went to Lola School.

Mr. Clifford Vigen well remembers the terrible mud holes in the trails, very small patches of land being farmed; going across the lake to get groceries at Gibbons store at Hinnehik, then the change to Winfield when the store was moved.

Water for drinking was got by taking containers out into the lake where the water was cold and sometimes taken from a creek nearby.

At this time, the only entertainment where people gathered were dances held at Buck Lake, Knob Hill and Winfield. Near neighbours were DeWitts, Parkers, Pochas, Kristas and later Browns. The mill was sold to Van Volkenberg and the Vigen family moved back to the farm at Nugent.

PETER AND ELIZABETH WALD FAMILY

John and Malonia Wald came from Russia to North Dakota, U.S.A. in 1898 where they farmed until 1914. Farming conditions were bad - not enough moisture and soil poor so they came to Canada and homesteaded first at Compeer, Alberta. There were seven children - all boys. John, Frank, Joe, Peter, Wendolen (deceased) and George (twins), and the youngest, Bill. The family lived at Macklund, then Cremona. Peter and Elizabeth Sieben from Compeer were married and they came to the Knob Hill area in 1938 where they farmed until 1944 when they moved into Winfield and started a meat market.

Over the years he expanded his store and put in a stock of groceries and they continue to run this business.

There are a family of four children. Caroline married Richard Abbott (deceased). There are four children from this marriage, Dianne, Donald, Pauline and Billy. She is now married to Robert Viers and they have a daughter Caroline and they make their home in Calgary. Anne is married to Earl Johnson. They have three children, Linda, Dwayne and Jo-anne. They live at Grand Prairie. Adeline married Victor Miller and there are three children, Peter, Joe and Richard. They live on their farm at Buck Lake. James married Evelyn Wager. They make their home at Grand Prairie. They have two boys, Gregory and Grant.

MRS. ROSINA WALLIN

On May 31st, 1970, Mrs. Wallin celebrated her ninetieth birthday at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Bert Anderson of the Battle Lake area. She was born on May 31st, 1890 in Edgeware, England, where she lived until the age of thirteen when she went to work in London as a scullery maid. Working for various titled families, she advanced to head cook and housekeeper. The last position as such was with a Lord and Lady Hardgraves. She met and married her first husband, Dan Lowe. They had three sons, Walter, Charlie and Frank before immigrating to Canada. Their first home being at Wynyard, Sask. Daughter, Nellie, was born here with no one in attendance. They moved to Dubuc, Sask. but Dan was in ill health and so left the farm and soon after died.

Rosina finally sold the house and paid the amount, \$1,200.00, on a hotel but found it too difficult to run this type of business alone. She met Hans Wallin and married him in 1921. Selling the hotel they moved to Wetaskiwin. Rosina and Dorothy were born there. They then moved to Battle Lake in 1930. Mrs. Wallin was often called on to deliver babies in those homestead days and was often called "Old Doc Wallin". She was left a widow again in 1952. She spent a few years in Wetaskiwin and Calgary but came home to the farm in 1965 to spend her last years. She enjoys TV and still likes a good juicy story to read and does her own cooking.

JULIUS WALTERS

I was born in Winnipeg, Manitoba in 1909. That same year, my dad, mother and family moved to Edmonton. In 1914, we moved to a farm in the Millet district. In 1923, I came with my stepfather to Pendryl where we did some land breaking on the Rachel place. In the fall we went back to Millet.

There were no roads in 1923 from Battle Lake to Pendryl, there were only bush trails. We travelled with horses and wagon, and got stuck a lot of times going across creeks and had to unload our wagon so we could get it out. It took us three days to get to Pendryl from Millet. We slept on the wagon at night.

In 1925, I filed on a homestead south of the Traback place. I broke ten acres on that homestead. I had it for a few years then I gave it up. In 1930, I filed on the homestead that I am living on now. I lived on the homestead in the summer and in the winter I worked in lumber camps. In the winter of 1930, I worked for Art Burrows in the sawmill at the north end of Buck Lake. In the winters of 1931 and 1932, I worked at Lacurs near Hinton cutting mine props, then in 1933 to 1935 I worked for Art Burrows again. In the fall of 1935 I got married. In the winter of 1937, I worked at Letourneau's sawmill south of Pendryl. In 1938 and 1939 worked for MacDougal sawmill at Draders Camp Six. When the oil fields opened up, I went to work there near Alder. In 1955, I decided to stay home and try to farm. For quite a few years I did all the farming with horses. The first tractor I bought was a Cross Mounted Case, the motor was cross ways on it and it had to be cranked from the side.

I and my wife had nine children, Johnny, Norman (deceased), Billy, Jim, Violet, Ivy, Jenny, Louise (deceased) and Mary. In 1971 we are still living on the same farm.

MYRTLE FOREMAN WARD

On my first trip into Buck Lake, I spent a night at the Driard Hotel in Wetaskiwin. At 7:30 a.m., I started out with the mail carrier. I was wedged in between mail sacks and various parcels. We made it as far as a stopping place near Falun, the first night. The mail man did shopping for several people along the way so we made several stops. The second night we made it to Yeoford. Oh! those roads, got bogged down in muskeg but we never turned back. The third day we made it to Knob Hill where the Bunker family ran the stopping place. The fourth day we started off with a fresh team and democrat and made it to Pendryl that afternoon. Such a journey!

In 1925 my sister, Dorothy Weaver, asked me to come in to teach at Maywood School and stay with her as she had lost her husband and was operating the store at Pendryl, and homesteading on her own. This school operated only during the summer months.

By that time the railroad had been built as far as Hoadley. I had hoped that the trip would be an easy one but alas! it had rained. I had packed as many school supplies as possible in an old fashioned telescope bag and my own personal effects in a huge suitcase. Mr. Julius Dahl started out with a team and democrat to meet me but the road was a floating muskeg. He took the horses out of harness and rode out to Hoadley. Neither of us knew anything about diamond hitches but we started off with one grip on each horse. They jumped creeks, wallowed in the mud, the suitcases sodden and wet slid off many times. To this day, I marvel that we ever made it. I lost most of my precious school supplies but we got there drenched to the skin and absolutely starving. The next morning, I rode down to Maywood to meet my many pupils who came from all directions. Such a summer as we had! School to those children was a welcome break from the endless chores on the homestead. Getting to school was no easy chore in those years but I enjoyed every day that I taught in there. When I hear of teachers threatening to strike today for higher pay, I'll bet none of them work any harder than I did for my \$1,000.00 dollars a year--top wages for a teacher with first class certificate.

Some of those children rode six miles to get to the school. There was high excitement when they reported seeing a red fox on the way to school and occasionally a black bear. I must get back and see the old school house one of these days.

FRED WARNER FAMILY

We came to Winfield from Red Deer in 1929. Dad homesteaded the land we selected and we came out on a Government grant. The trip was made with an old touring car, our possessions were shipped - furniture, animals and machinery. We lived in three different houses in the years we were there, all were made of logs.

Our first Post Office was in Winfield, run first by Sid Carter, and his son, Billy (Willy), succeeded him.

We attended school in the old Winfield School situated west of the trestle bridge near Etter-MacDougalls planer mill. First teacher was Mrs. Bernard, second, Mr. Vanderbere, third, Mr. Johnny Thrasher and fourth, Mr. John Third. Norbucks first teacher was a Miss Olive Code from Red Deer. She died a few years ago.

When we first came, Charlie Stady's two sons and one daughter had an eating house and rooms for boarders. They sold to Mr. and Mrs. Samuels. She was the first nurse in town.

Our family consisted of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Warner, two daughters, Isella and Lois, one son, Aubrey. Dad died in 1960. Isella's first husband, Alex Kovar, was killed in the Second World War. They had three Children, Velma, Vern and Billy. Isella later married Ralph Levers of Breton and they adopted a daughter. They live in Wyndell, B. C. Lois married Fred Clements and they have an adopted daughter and one of their own. Aubrey lives in Calgary, is married and has two adopted children, Kathryn and Thomas.

Some neighbours I remember are Mr. and Mrs. Art Jones, sons Lloyd, Melvin, Sidney and Lorne. Audrey and Larry arrived later. Mr. and Mrs. Bert Abbott, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Brecken and daughters Gladys and Margaret. Gladys married Stan Panek and Margaret married Ivor Baldwin.

A year later these arrived in the district: Mr. Charlie Warner, now deceased, Mr.

and Mrs. Hubert Warner (Hubert deceased). Sons, Windfield, living in Red Deer and Harold (Bunny) deceased. Daughters, Ethel living in Ponoka (Mrs. Wm. Corbet) and Iola, living in Kamloops (Mrs. Paul Frazier). Later another daughter Louise and son Billy. Mr. and Mrs. Bob Brown (Poplar Valley), daughters, Wilda and Louise. Mrs. Henry Larson, Breton, a son George, who was accidentally killed as a young boy.

Farming conditions were at best ROUGH. Very little cleared land and roads were only trails.

We had a good well right near the house - lots of good water.

Prices compared to now: I can remember buying hamburger for ten cents a pound and when it went to twelve cents we were about ready to stop eating meat. Eggs were nine cents a dozen. Mr. Ginther couldn't sell liver at five cents so he gave it away to anyone for their cats and dogs. Good shoes cost \$2.98 a pair.

At first we only had house parties or sing songs at each others homes on Friday and Saturday nights. We had real good times - corn roasts and bon fires around the swimming hole which was two miles from any of us. We went on the speeder most of the time.

There were lots of blizzards, and forest fires were quite common. The worst one I can remember was in the late 1930's. It had a three hundred mile front on it, having started north of Edmonton, it came down through Winfield, Buck Lake, etc., and swept on south beyond the U.S. border. Dozens of mills and homes were burned. My sister lost her home and everything they owned except the clothes they got out in. One of Bill Fraser's camps, Anthony's mill at Antross, Art Burrows mill at Norbuck and some of Etter-Mc Dougalls's camps. Several men were trapped on Buck Mountain for three days. No one knew if they were dead or alive but they were lucky and all got out. There were three real bad fires in Winfield in which lives were lost. In the late 1930's, some missionaries came and they had two little girls from Norbuck, daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Reg. Weston staying with them. The house burned and one died in it. In our time, Louie and Esther Gillespie's home burned down. Three of their children and one of Mr. and Mrs. Dan Moller's died as a result. It was started by a gas lamp. Joe Walter's cafe burned and two men died in it.

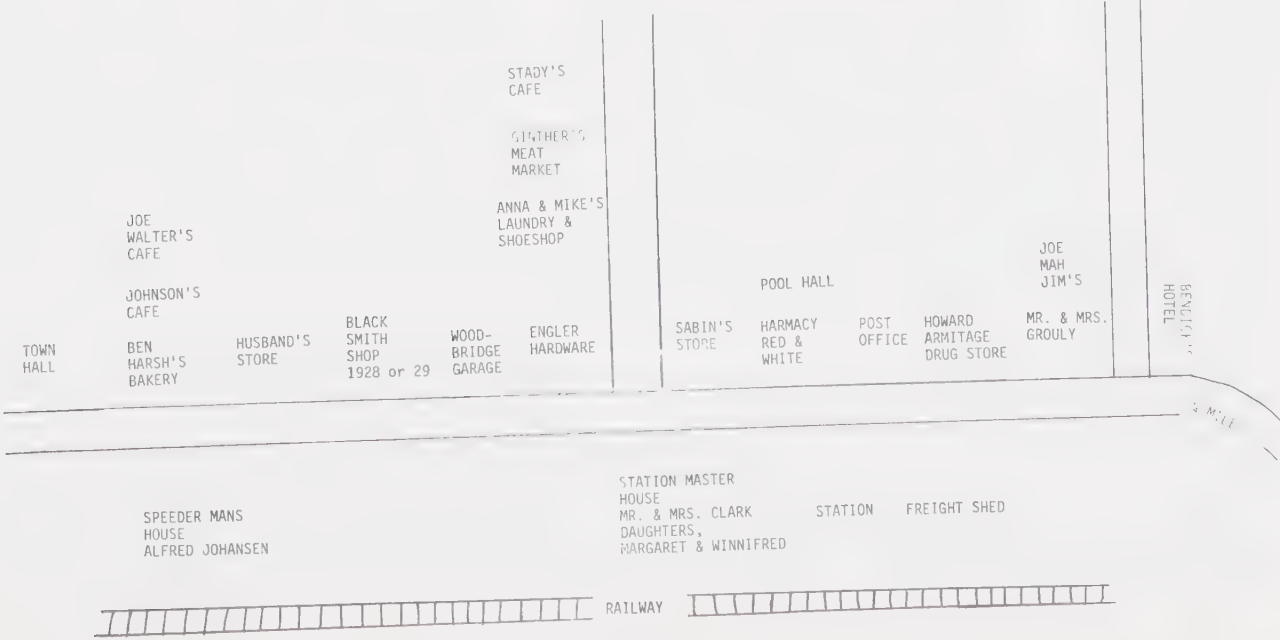
Sometimes when we were out picking berries we would be talking to the other person on the other side of the bush and when we got around to that side we would find our friend had been replaced by a bear and believe me, the bear got all the berries in our pail and on the bush too.

I think life was better then. We had less material things but life was slower and less complicated. Everyone had time for little things. Today it's too much rush and hurry.

Miss Conroy was the first nurse we ever had. She covered about forty or fifty square miles. She was terrific and could do just about anything.

Mr. Mackey was the first Anglican minister in Winfield. Mr. and Mrs. Weston and my mom started the first Sunday school here. It was held in the Norbuck station house for two years. It was twelve by sixteen, had two benches and a big coal stove in it - period.

Winfield as remembered by Fred Warner:



REVEREND SYDNEY J. WATERMAN

Rev. Waterman was born September 25, 1884. He first served in the ministry in 1902 and served for over sixty-two years. The districts he served include Stettler, Lacombe, Ponoka, Wetaskiwin, Battle Lake, Brightview and Yeoford. In 1914, he joined the Cold Stream Guards Regiment. Pte. S. J. Waterman served over three years in Germany, France and Belgium. Later, he was appointed to the Guards of the King's Palace where he served for almost four years. He and Mrs. Waterman are making their home in Wetaskiwin.

CHARLES WATSON



Mr. Charles Watson and Mr. John Forchuk hauling lumber.

Charles Watson filed on his homestead in 1930. He came from Daysland where he had been farming. He moved his family to the homestead at Alder Flats in 1935. He served on the school board and was active in community affairs. His health became poorly and he passed away in April 1937 at the age of sixty-one years. The boys, Allen, Bert and Norman carried on with the farm until World War II, when they left to enlist. Stanley took over the homestead and eventually sold to Gilbert Fraser. He now lives at Buck Lake. Bernice married Tom Somers in 1937. Maxine married Ed Kluczny.

SARAH ELLEN (Nellie) WEAVER

MEMOIRS of SARAH ELLEN (Nellie) WEAVER,
written January 1969 at age 84 years,
as one of the first settlers in the
Buck Lake area, west of Wetaskiwin, Alberta.

To the early pioneers who faced hardships with courage I dedicate this - to those brave men and women who made the way for our followers to enjoy the values of life.

Arriving in Wetaskiwin on January 3, 1912, my husband, Harold, and I told my brothers, Ted and Tom Cherrington, my husbands brother, Sam, and my sister's husband, Charlie Masfen, of our intentions to homestead. They were all delighted to join in, so my husband, Ted, Tom, Sam, Charlie and another friend, set out to locate many of the quarter sections of land together. My brother Tom filed on one at the lake but was unable to have same as too much timber was on it and the rest in the lake, so it was cancelled. My brother, Ted, filed on the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ 35-45-5-W5, my brother-in-law, Sam, filed on SW $\frac{1}{4}$ 35-45-5-W5, my brother-in-law, Charlie, filed on the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ 2-45-5-W5. Alan Drummond filed on SW $\frac{1}{4}$ 2-45-5-W5 but he abandoned his quarter section, also Charlie did the same. Our quarter section was the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ 35-45-5-W5.

In March of 1912, being advised by my brothers that we should travel while the frost was in the ground, we set out with a guide - Mr. Tatrow, the mail carrier from Wetaskiwin to Yeoford. He called at Brightview Post Office, Falun Post Office, Westeros, Battle Lake Post Office and on to his destination, Yeoford. A Mr. Nowell was Postmaster at Yeoford. Near to Westeros Mr. Tatrow said, "I shall cross this muskeg as I am sure it is still frozen". He was first to drive on to the muskeg. Our team was a few yards back. As soon as he hit the muskeg, down went his two horses till you could only see their heads. He shouted "Save the mare and let the horse stay" but all of us held up the two horses heads out of the mire and the wagon was on the dry land on the edge of the muskeg. They quickly unhooked our team and pulled the wagon out of the way, then with all the men, Ted, Sam, Harold and Tatrow, they managed a miracle - they got the two horses out of the mire - poor, cold animals. I walked the one horse up and down the road to keep her warm for they shook and trembled. Mr. Tatrow was more than thankful. This delayed us a long time but so on to Yeoford. Mr. Nowell put us up for the night and then on we went to the so-called promised land. We were equipped with tent, stove, etc. Passing by a shack, a man came out and invited us in. It was a Mr. Hart, a bachelor. We never did see him again as he got cold feet and left the district.

We finally arrived at the creek on our land and camped there. The three men started to build. The trees were so thick they had only to fell them on the spot and put up our first

log cabin - 15 ft. 20 ft. approximately. Two windows and one door - without the door - as we hung up a cowhide for a door. We knew it would last us six months as we did not intend to stay for the winter. While they were building the said cabin, I was left at the creek camp to bake our first bread. The men had rigged up a spruce cabin to let the dough rise in, just as a windbreaker. The wood was jackpine I was using in the stove. I lifted the stove lid to put in more wood and a spark shot out of the stove and lit up the spruce branches. I saved the raised dough and put out the fire with water from the creek and got the stove started up and baked the dough and good bread turned out for supper.

Sam and Ted went home after building the shack.

Ted came out to help build the house so he was out quite often and we thought he would prove his quarter section, but he did not want the lonesome life so went home to his mother and brother, eight miles southeast of Wetaskiwin. I might say my mother came out to Canada from England in 1910 and kept house for her two bachelor sons until she passed away in 1930.

The first few settlers a few months previous to us, were Joe Betlamini (1911) bachelor, Lewis and wife (they left in 1913), George Bergs, Peter Mulback and wife, John Olson, Peter and Gus Bjurs and wives, Sinclair brothers, the Siegel family, Larson, Pillens, Carl and the Tipping family, and a Mr. Swanson, who unfortunately lost his life in a logging accident before he could settle on the homestead. Our nearest neighbour was George Berg - his land was NW $\frac{1}{4}$ 36-45-5-W5. Some of the 1911 homesteaders got cold feet and abandoned their homesteads.

In the summer of 1912, our first sign of wild fruit was the strawberries - they were so tiny but I always managed to pick enough for two or three sauce dishes. The flavour was so sweet. Next came the raspberries which were very plentiful about half a mile away. Then came the blueberries, cranberries and huckleberries - one mile into the jackpine. It was easy to pick 18 quarts of these berries in one afternoon.

In the first six months I spent on the homestead in 1912, I saw only three white women. In September we rode horseback out to Wetaskiwin, then by train to Edmonton, where we worked for the next six months. Edmonton was but small in those days. There were tarpapered shacks on 97th Street. We both had hotel experience so it was easy to get work. My husband worked in the Royal George and I worked for the Candy King, Charles Hepburn, in the Hudson's Bay Block. He had a restaurant and candy store. This was his slogan - "Hepburns Candy Fine and Dandy, ever ate them?"

We only stayed on the homestead the first three summers, not the winters. We cut wood by hand with a crosscut saw or bucksaw but when we stayed through the winters, we then had a circular saw and engine which was a great improvement during the cold weather.

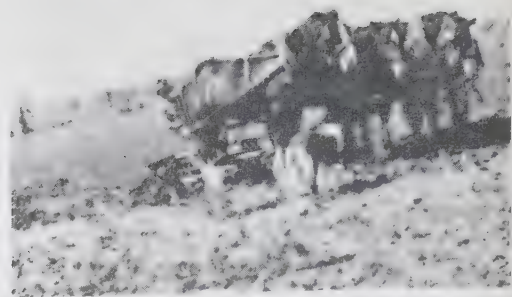
I recall one summer we had a heavy hailstorm and it killed some of our young chickens. The fall of 1914 we took all our chickens that we had raised during the summer out and sold them to a storekeeper for 25¢ each, most of which would weigh 5 lbs. each. That same summer, two robins fed along with our chickens. It was fun to see the rooster try to drive the robins away. About the first three summers the bluebirds came in droves of about 50 on their way north. How pretty they looked - a deep blue - but they did not stay.

After proving our quarter section of land, in 1915 we applied for a Post Office. We were required to submit several names and finally we were granted the name "PENDRYL" which we had chosen. Pendryl Hall was the name of an estate in Codsall Wood, Nr. Wolverhampton, England. Dick Pendryl was in the service of King Charles II, and as I remember, the story at one time was being sought by some of the King's men and hid on this estate and subsequently it was called "Pendryl Hall." As a girl I lived at Codsall Wood. At this time the nearest Post Office was at Minnehik, six miles northwest at Buck Lake. The Postmaster was Mr. Tipping, long deceased now.

Pendryl is now roughly 65 miles west of Wetaskiwin but in those days was considered to be 90 miles west of Wetaskiwin, and was easily that when you consider the only access was by way of Indian trails.

As the homesteader arrived there on foot with his blanket and an axe, he built a shack in quick time and although the roof was birch bark and sod, it did not leak.

As time went on, the settlers came in - the Engbloms, Mr. Long and family, Ed Bevan, Moran - and not forgetting the Indians who were already on the Reserve. Later on in 1918, the Indians deserted owing to the 'flu which took the lives of several Indians. Sickness was a drawback - no doctor. God's good man came out once a year on horseback. One by one these early pioneers vanished. Mr. Mulback, Sinclair Brothers, the Pillan family, Mr. Carl and Ed Bevan. The Calhoun family went out and in for a few years and where they lived on the north end of the lake, it is called "Calhoun Bay". Another two pioneers who lived a



few months at the north end of Buck Lake Were Smith and Campbell. They left in the spring of 1913.

I am told that now only three of the old pioneers remain out there, namely, Mrs. Siegel, who settled there in 1911; Mr. George Berg (1911); and Mrs. Joe Betlamini, whose husband settled in 1911 and she came to the district in 1920. There are quite a number of their children living there now - happy and prosperous now that machinery is available.

It did not take long before hunters were coming out to bag their game. Farmers from Wetaskiwin were our first visitors. There were six of them, all excited as to how they would get the deer. Mr. Recknagle followed a deer that he had shot at until he was played out so his pals got a homesteader, Mr. Mulback, who owned a team of oxen and a stone-boat, to put Mr. Recknagle on it and bring him back to our cabin. Oh the sight! He was covered in blood and I thought at first he had been shot, but was soon told otherwise as it was from the animal. They were very late getting back to the cabin owing to what had happened, so one of their buddies, a man whom they called "New York Harry" put the lantern up in a tree and was sure if they were lost they would see the light. Harry was no hunter - he stayed home to help cook for the others. I remember once he opened a can of tomatoes and made me a dustpan out of the can - quite the genius! Roy Ballhorn got a moose and my brother, Tom Cherrington, got a deer. They hung up the moose and deer and took a picture.

As the hunters came the Indians soon got acquainted and would ask \$5.00 to show the hunters a deer, \$10.00 for a moose and were delighted to clear land for you for \$10.00 an acre. They came and put up their teepee as close to the creek as possible as they not only got water but also large rocks to make Pemikin. They gave us some of this queer looking meat wrapped in a skin of a deer. It was moose meat smoked and dried and pounded on rocks until it was minced. It looked dark from the smoke and not at all appetizing. They were slow workers at brush-cutting - they would leave for a few days and they would then come back.

One afternoon I was on my way to pick berries and seeing that the Indians had taken down their teepee, I went and looked to see if they had put out their fire. Yes, they had and by the fire ashes was a wooden doll made by one of these Indians. I picked it up out of curiosity and I have never seen anything so beautifully made in all my life. They had used strawberry juice for the colouring of lips and cheeks and charcoal for the black hair and it was carved most exquisitely even to the small fingers. I laid it down in the place I had found it, thinking on my way home I would take it but to my surprise it was gone when I returned so obviously they had returned to get it. These Indians were the "Stony" and often they went to Lake Wabamun. One of

Indians married an educated woman. She had been brought up by white people and could read and write very well. I remember her having her first "papoose" on our land on her way out to Wabamun so I brought her in and found clothes for her baby and she washed and dressed it and put it in a sack on her back. There were three families of Indians, George Rain, William Simons and Joshua, husband to the said woman.

The Post Office brought lots of hard work. My husband was Fishery Overseer - he had to patrol the lake twice a week. He was also Justice of the Peace and I was Registrar, the Polling Station being our Post office. During the fishing season licences had to be sold. Our salary was \$100.00 a year. I have my gold brooch for the Post Office - "C. P. S." on the Maple Leaf. The Post Office more or less tied us down and we both could not leave to get supplies, so one would go and then the other would go to town. This also enabled me to see my mother and other members of my family.

On one occasion, I was on my way home with a heavy load - a 50 gallon can of coal oil, etc. The roads were crowned up in the middle to allow drainage. Near to Falun I met a load of hay. Knowing that if I crowded the driver with the load of hay, he would certainly tip over, I pulled as near to my side of the road as I could to allow him to pass. In doing so the stake that held the wagon box on, broke, but my load did not tip. The man quickly got down from his load and cut a stake out of the bush and put it in the sleighbox and wished me luck. He thought I was brave to tackle such a journey. On one occasion, Mrs. Betlamini accompanied me. It was great to have a companion on this long and lonesome journey.

In 1920, Joe Betlamini got tired of living alone so he sent to Italy for his old boy-and-girl sweetheart to come out and be a wife for him. He met her at Wetaskiwin and they got married, Joe was a genius - he could turn his hand to anything. Yes, if the plough broke, he could fix it. He made several changes in his blacksmith shop. He also cut logs into thick boards for a floor in his cowbarn.

There was plenty of food for everyone if they put themselves out to get it. The fish was plentiful, also prairie chicken, elk, deer and moose. The hunters from Edmonton and Wetaskiwin always took out either moose or deer. People who had commercial fishing licences took sleigh loads of whitefish from Buck Lake. The roads were impassable in the summer as they were only Indian trails and there was considerable muskeg. Thus we only had the winter in which to haul supplies, such as food from Wetaskiwin and lumber from Battle Lake. The mail was delivered only once a week and only letters, no newspapers, as it was brought in by a saddle horse from Yeoford Post Office. Before having the Post Office at Pendryl, getting the mail from Minnehik was quite a chore - on horseback to the lake and in a boat across the lake. The boat was a poor one - flat bottomed and homemade by one of the settlers who was good enough to lend it to everyone - so it was quite an experience. My husband would row the boat and I would fish with a line and hook and catch a Jackfish. We would not dare get into the boat if a strong wind was blowing. The mailman used a sail on his boat from the north end down to Minnehik Post Office. The settlers begged of us to get the Post Office. Within a year we got newspapers and parcels and the "Bachelor's Bible" - the T. Eaton Catalogue. I can safely say that all used the mail order catalogue.

The rules to the homesteaders were to live on a quarter section six months of the year to clear land up to 30 acres, which we did, choosing to live in the city for the winter and back in the spring to burn the brush piles.

I would like to tell you of some of our experiences.

Some mornings you got up to find that the dog had met with a porcupine so you had to get the quills out of her nose with the pliers. Yes, there were lots of wild animals - one evening two lynx came close to the shack. Trapping was good. The weasel turned white in the winter, also the rabbits and I remember some men came out to shoot the rabbits with .22 rifles. All they had to do was put a lantern by the straw pile and sit and wait for a few minutes. These men took a sleigh load out which I presume was for the pelts.

Our Royal Northwest Mounted Police were true to their job. One incident I recall very vividly was the time that two aged Indians had died on the south end of Buck Lake. They had died in a sitting position and were frozen stiff. The Mountie came out and put them in a buggy and drove them to Wetaskiwin (90 miles). What a sight to behold! On another occasion, two men got into an argument and one shot the other. The true Mountie came out to get the man to stand trial. The mountie took a great chance of being shot at.

One homesteader shot himself and that was another job for the Mountie. On this occasion the man was put to rest in his own well, being the only logical means of burying him due to the weather conditions prevailing at the time. This used to be quite a thing to jest about over the years - as we would drive by I would say to my husband, "Can you see

old Jacob Hopp sitting on the well? "

The early years were very wet. The water as you walked would squeeze out of your bootlaces. It was impossible to bind your crop so the cattle had to eat it as greenfeed.

When our first small crop was harvested and we stacked it and invested in a small threshing rig. We had a Fairbanks Morse Engine. Our kind neighbours came to help with the threshing and when the engine was started up a spark shot out into the straw stack and started a fire. A team of horses were in harness at the stack and broke loose and ran away in fright. All hands to the pump but to no avail - it burnt for days, so there was no feed for the stock for the winter. Many people advised us to take the stock into the bush and shoot them but we didn't take their advise - we hauled feed from Haverig and all the stock survived.

The log buildings were shelter for the stock and now to put a roof over the cowbarn with homemade shingles. This is how our kind neighbours helped. Two long logs were laid on the ground with a space between them for a horse and a driver. The logs had a cut the length of a shingle about 26 inches. The blade of a planer or such a contraption was to slice off the shingles with the strength of horses, up one log and down the other log. Soon sufficient shingles were cut and I must say they served a purpose for the roof did not leak. One of the oldtimers who helped with this is still out at Buck Lake, quite hale and hearty. He also helped to dig our well for water carrying was too much of a burden, being half a mile to our creek.

When spring opened up, the green grass showed along the edge of the creek and our cattle tried to reach it and fell into the creek, so we had to pull them out with a horse. On different occasions we were successful in getting six cows out alive, but I well remember the seventh cow that got into the creek. It was on a Sunday and we broke the cow's neck pulling her out. It did not take long for the coyotes to devour her. Oh, to the howling of the coyotes! Speaking of coyotes, Mr. Dewar found a lair of coyotes, six puppies, so when the old mother coyote was away from her young, Mr. Dewar took the six young puppies home and wanted to raise them. He built a wire fence and securely fastened it to the ground. He was sure they were safe and he fed them daily and although hearing coyotes nightly he never thought of the coyotes finding a way to get their young back to wild-life, but they did, they dug the dirt up underneath the wire and so helped the young puppies out of captivity.

Sickness came to the settlement one way or another. One man was carried out on a stretcher by six men who volunteered to get him to a doctor. Another man was kicked by a horse and his collarbone broken and he was taken out with a bandage made from a tablecloth around his neck put on by his kind neighbour. An elderly lady died and one of the settlers made a casket from his cupboard doors. She was laid to rest near the south end of the lake and my brother-in-law, Sam, read the burial service.

All married couples got together and arranged picnics for the bachelors and children. The food was all home-baked, roast chicken, venison, ham, salad, pies, cake and ice cream. One time one of the bachelors made coffee in a wash boiler - it was real coffee! All from far and near came to the picnics and enjoyed themselves.

My worst experience was when a bachelor who had gone insane came to tantalize and frighten me while my husband had gone to Wetaskiwin for groceries. When I saw him coming, I knew that his mental state was much worse than it had been for he had torn his trousers off above the knees and the crown out of his hat and was just wearing the brim. He came in and made it known that he knew my husband was away and said that he was going to hang me down the well. I tried to humour him and told him to sit down and I would make him a cup of tea. I then quickly unhung the 44.40 Winchester rifle and quickly got out of the door on the pretence of getting wood for the stove. My dog came to me seeing that I had the gun. He saw I had not returned to the house so came after me with all his threats and ordered me into the house but I didn't go and told him if he didn't go home I would shoot him. He repeated that he was going to hang me down the well and put all belongings down too. I said, "I have ten shells in the magazine, now off you go" - but he just mimicked me repeating what I said and kept following me one way and then another. The gate in the corral was open so I dashed through it but he put his hands on top of the rails and sprang over into the corral. I could easily get under the rails so was free again. All the time my faithful dog followed me and would have seized him had I ordered her to do so, which he knew, because he said, "Do you know who your friend is? It's your dog". He kept following me and repeating that he would kill me and quoted that David was in the sky and had come down on to a tree. I threatened him that if he did not go I would shoot him. This lasted for three hours and finally getting up enough courage to point the gun at him and get closer to him with my threat, he decided to go. I followed him through the corral so that I could see that he was not hiding

behind the barns and watched him for half a mile.

I then decided to go to my neighbours, Bergs, and tell them what had happened, so I hung up the rifle and got the shotgun and walked up the hill. While doing so, I fell down due to exhaustion. When I got to Bergs, they told me he had been there but they didn't know he had been up to my home but knew that he had gone completely insane and they asked me to stay with them. However, I didn't stay. I went home and nailed down all the windows, fed the chickens and dog and went to bed.

A few days later he came again obviously with the same intentions but as I looked out of my door I saw my two neighbours hiding in the bush for my protection. As he neared the house, the two men appeared and he hurried off knowing that they were on his track.

He was eventually taken to Ponoka Mental Hospital, taking six men to rope him to the vehicle. By this time, he had taken all his belongings out of his shack and burnt them in a brushpile. The last we heard of him he had been deported back to his homeland, Finland.

The first store at Pendryl was opened up by my brother-in-law, Sam and his wife, Dot. They had two small children. He was on his way for groceries in April 1923, when he was suddenly taken sick and died. His widow left the homestead and took the store to the Swan quarter section. This land was given to her by Mr. Swan for her kindness in nursing him before he died.

Our first child, a boy named Arthur, was born in 1919 and my husband's father and mother came out from England to visit and see their grandchild in June 1920. My father-in-law was quite impressed with the 160 acres and said to my husband, "Harold, this is a paradise". They stayed for three months during which they helped with the building of a house for their other son, Sam, on his quarter section of land. The mosquitoes were very bad that summer and my mother-in-law was really bothered with them. I don't think her impressions of the "homestead" were too favorable.

In 1923, a petition was raised to get a registered nurse into the community and some of the settlers built a frame house for her near the Pendryl store.

The first school was "Maywood" built at the south end of the lake. The Pendryl schoolhouse was built in the 1920's on the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 1-46-5-W5, but is no longer there.

Our second child, Louisa May, was born at Pendryl in 1922 and is now residing in Calgary.

After 15 years on the homestead, we decided to move to Millet, Alberta in 1927.

WENHAM VALLEY POST OFFICE

Wenham Valley Post Office, at the home of W. A. Jones, and Keystone (Breton now) Post Office were serviced from Yeoford Post Office by mail courier, Raleigh Ramsey, till the railroad came to Winfield about 1928. At the same time, Ivo Bunney carried mail from Yeoford Post Office to Knob Hill Post Office, Pendryl Post Office and Buck Lake Post Office. After the railroad came through, Wenham Valley was serviced via Knob Hill from Winfield. The first courier was Jap Bunney, then Wes Mason, Art Norman, Eugene Lachance, Malcolm Nicholson, 1947-48 Morris Zarowski, Ole Gunderson, T. J. Gronow, Mr. Carlson. The Post Office was then moved to Nickolson's home. Later, Albert Wiesner became postmaster and courier. It closed while in their hands in 1952.

THE SETTLING OF WENHAM VALLEY DISTRICT

SE 21-47-3-W5 was owned in the early 1900's by the Lashway family. The farm had a log cabin and a few other log buildings on it. The Lashways left during the First World War.

For many years, the land lay vacant. A small hilly field was where the local ladies used to go to pick the wild strawberries that grew there in profusion. The neighbours cows would pasture there in the summer time.

In the late twenties, a family by the name of Shepherd, moved onto the Lashway farm. A Welsh family that had been working in the coal mines of Drumheller. They had a large family of girls and boys. Ethel was already married. The oldest son, Bill, would go to the mines to work with his Dad during the winter months. Peggy, Mona, Marvin, Fred and Jack were the ones at home most of the time. After their land lease was up, they went back to the mines to work for a time.

After a few years they moved back, this time to the McClarety place, SE 28-47-3-W5, and lived there for many years. The family grew by two more children, Jim and Megan. A few more grandchildren arrived on the scene also.

While they lived here, their oldest son, Bill, got married. Everyone attended a surprise shower for him and his bride at Shepherds home.

Their one daughter, Peggy, was not well and when still on the farm, passed away.

Shepherds lived here for a few years longer, then in the forties, they sold out and went to Drumheller to the mines. None of the family live around here now.

All are married and have families of their own. Mrs. Shepherd has been dead for several years and their oldest daughter, Ethel Gillard, has also passed on. In the fall of 1971, Mr. Shepherd was still living at Sylvan Lake, Alberta.

The next owner of the Lashway farm was Mr. Jack Kershaw, the Breton station agent. He owned the farm for many years and always had tenants on it.

Jake Neutzling, his wife, two sons, Percy and Leo, and their daughter, Viola, were one of Mr. Kershaw's tenants. They farmed the few acres under cultivation on the farm and raised pigs on shares for Mr. Kershaw. Leo Neutzling married Louise Snell. They bought a farm a couple of miles east of Antross where they lived and farmed until Louise's death a couple of years ago. Leo would work at farm work for neighbours to help supplement their farm income. They had three daughters who are all married and have families of their own. Leo works at various jobs now.

Percy too was married and had a farm west of Breton. Now he is the Breton house mover. Viola married Bert Marks, who also bought a farm over towards Antross. They lived there for a few years then Bert's father died down east and he returned to his old home. Viola and the children stayed behind. They moved from the farm into Breton where she still lives. The children are married and have their own homes.

After their tenancy was up on the Kershaw place, the old Neutzling folks bought a farm across the road from their daughter and son-in-law. They lived there for a while. Mr. Neutzling worked in the camps. Finally, they moved to Breton where he was night watchman for Pearson Brothers Planer Mill, where he worked until his death. Mrs. Neutzling died a few years later.

The Reid family rented the Kershaw farm for a few years. They then bought the S¹ 19-47-3-W5. They farmed the fields and raised pigs on shares for Mr. Kershaw.

John and Ellen Hunter also lived on the Kershaw farm for a time too, plus a few other tenants.

Fred Hamel and family lived on the Kershaw farm for several years. They came here from Fox Valley, Saskatchewan, shipping their livestock and household possessions up by the train and Mr. Hamel moved them home from Breton Station.

Alex, the oldest boy was overseas in the army when they came but was out of it when they left. Blanche and Leah were the twins. Blanche married Malcolm Nicholson. Ida, too came and worked in the Winfield drug store for a time. Then she married Alban Hustad from Winfield. Most of the neighbours were invited to the Hamel home for Ida's wedding reception. It was a very happy time. Mae and Alma were at home and helped Mrs. Hamel. Both Mae and Alma were taking correspondence school courses in higher grades.

Louis was a station agent and was not at home very often. The three younger boys attended Wenham Valley school. Many days you would see Ernest, Edward and Arthur all flying down the hill riding to school on one bicycle. The Hamel young folks were fond of sports and would also tobogan down their hills in the winter months.

Hamel's mother stayed with the family some of the time and was a spry lady of advanced years. She just loved to play cards and helped to do the other household chores.

After their term at the Kershaw farm, the Hamels had an auction sale and moved to Dawson Creek, B. C. Mr. Hamel passed away a few years ago. Mae entered a convent and is now a Sister. Alma is married. Mrs. Hamel raised quite a few chickens and also had a large garden.

After Mr. Kershaw left Breton, some times the farm was uninhabited. Eugene and Margaret Lachance and their wee son, Gerald, later moved here, from Ontario, where Gene had been working in the mines. Gene was originally from Saskatchewan, while Margaret was an Ontario girl and they bought the Lashway farm.

The Lachance's had a few cattle, sheep, pigs and a team of horses. He had an old tractor to do his field work. At times Gene worked in the oilfields at Leduc. For several years, he hauled the Wenham Valley mail from Winfield via Knob Hill. While they were living in Wenham Valley, Gloria, Donny, Patsy and Freddy were born. Then they sold the farm to Emil Steinke and moved onto a farm east and north of Yeoford where they still live. They had two more little girls and one more boy after they moved. Gloria married Don Leonhardt and is now living in Edmonton. Last fall Gerald married a girl from Buck Lake.

Patsy got married last fall to Gordon Walters from Warburg. They reside on his father's farm near Warburg.

Emil Steinke still has the farm and he hires people to live on the farm and tend the cattle for him during the winter months. In the summer, he pastures his land. At present, Ed Hamling is on the farm. The Raymond Stevenson family, also the Willard Robinson family previously lived there.

The Settling of Section Fifteen - 47-3-W5.

In the late thirties or early forties, the whole of section fifteen Twp. 47, R. 3 W5, being C.F.R. land, was sold to four different men. Arthur Bunney, a local farmer, Jap Bunney's son, bought the south west quarter. He had it for a short while and then traded it to Arthur Norman. Mr. Norman cleared a few acres of land on it which he kept rented out. Now, since the death of Mr. Norman, his son, Curtis, owns the farm.

The south east quarter of the section was bought by Paul Gurtler. He was a coal miner from Drumheller. During the summer months he and his wife with their teen age son, Rudolph, and their young daughter, Hilda, would come out to the farm. They built a small cabin which they intended on using for a granery later on. They gave it a bright red roof and some little tots used to call it Mickey Mouse's House. The men folks fenced the quarter and cleared about thirty acres. This land was cleared by hand with the axe. Then after the war, Gurtlers never came back. One day we heard the farm had been sold. Mr. Peter Dyck owns the farm now. He and his family no longer live here.

Mr. Dyck moved a larger house onto the farm and a few other out buildings such as a barn. He also drilled a well on the farm as there was no water on it.

The north east quarter of the section was purchased by Mr. Frank Kwasney, a coal miner from Drumheller also. He built a nice little home on the farm and a small barn. He also cleared a few acres of land. For a while, his wife and stepdaughter, Mildred Gorney, lived here, while Frank worked in the mines. One year Frank bought a lovely team of horses for farming but he only kept them until fall then he sold them again. They too left the farm which was later sold to Peter Dyck. He moved the house and barn onto the Gurtler farm.

The fourth quarter was sold to a miner from Drumheller also. Mr. John Gajda who built a small house on the farm that was later to become a granery. His wife, two children and himself lived here in the summer months when he was off work in the mines. He fenced the farm and Mr. Gajda and another man who worked for him by the name of Mike Lucas, a coal miner, cleared about eighteen acres of land.

For quite a few years Mr. Gajda rented his fields to various neighbours. When the Gajda family was on the farm their little boy, Eddy, about three years old, ran over to Mrs. Ida Bowman's when he heard a tractor start up in her yard so he could see what was going on. Eddy was a town boy and very interested in all goings on about a farm. At Mrs. Bowman's he ran up and down the hills in her sheep pasture and the sheep were scared half to death. A new family by the name of Gunderson arrived a little later and said they had bought the farm.

MODESTE VALLEY #2956 SCHOOL Changed to Wenham Valley School in later years

Modeste Valley School was built in 1913 on the SE 16-47-3-W5 and the first teacher was Miss Fraser, a Scottish girl from Ontario. who boarded at Goodhands. Shortly after were Miss Madge Bunney who wed Bernard (Bill) Mowell, Miss Jamieson. Years following were: 1923 - Mr. Beckett, 1924 - Fred McNaughton from Sexsmith, Alberta, 1925 - Miss Virginia Mendenhall, 1926 - Miss Phyllis Fear from Penhold wed Ed McAllister, 1927 - Miss Annie Patton, 1928 - 2 months - Miss Bentley, 1930 - Mr. Edgett for 2 months.

About 1930, a High School was built. 1930 - 3 years, Glen Carmichael (Sr. Class), 1930 - Miss Jean Fullerton, 1931 - 3 years - Miss Anna Moyer wed Sam Wickstrom, 1934 and 1940, Miss Augusta Goodhand, 1928 - Miss Nora Buenfield now Mrs. Hugh Impey of Breton, 1932 - 2 years, (Sr. Grade) Miss Lenora Husland now Mrs. John Olson, 1939 - Miss Viola Swanson, 1941 and 1942 - Miss Elsie Jans now Mrs. Art Bunney, 1944 - Miss Isobel Zarowski, Lucille Duchak boarded at Mrs. Janice Fredericks.

Some names are missing - Miss Effie Bowman who wed Wm. Rathegeber, supervised a year till the school closed and students were bused to Winfield and Breton.

Some family names at Wenham Valley School were: Freaderich, Mayer, Campbell, Hamel, Shephard, Skoglund, Bowman, Norman, Bunney, Wheale, Bearchell, Mason, Rathgeber, Snell, Berg, Erickson, Myers, Fulton, German, Gilmor, Gillard, Hughes and

JOHN WHETHAM

Mr. and Mrs. John Whetham arrived at their homestead in June 1933. They had filed the previous fall. John's father, Ephraim, a retired postal employee, came with them. In the spring of 1934, John's brother and family, Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Whetham, with four children, Peter, Ida, Lionel and Elsie, came and moved onto their homestead. It was busy times, with building houses and other buildings of logs, breaking up some ground for fields and gardens. Later the John Whetham's had two little girls, Louise and Lucile, and the Sidney Whetham's two more daughters, Janet and Irene. These two families lived on the North Trail, the correction line between Norbuck and Buck Lake, approximately 6 miles west of Norbuck. Houses were built and other buildings were added as the need arose.

At first water was hauled from the creek, then the men dug a well and the water proved to be of excellent quality. Neighbours exchanged work, helping each other when work was heavy.

The country provided much of the living. Wild game was plentiful. Lots of fish in Buck Lake. Many kinds of wild berries were available for the picking.

The first post office was at the railroad, Norbuck, a flag station, and Frank Rath was both postmaster and storekeeper.

Early neighbours were the Harold Hellerviks, Gordon Guards, Cummen's and DeWitts and Dick Shute, bachelors.

Farming was done with many handicaps, as the country had a high water level, and fields took a long time to dry up enough to be worked in the spring and besides any hauling had to be done in the winter when the ground was frozen.

A horseback trip to the post office once a week provided the news of friends and neighbours, besides re-plenishing small supplies including coffee at 25¢ a pound. Heavier articles had to be purchased in Winfield, where one could go by wagon.

The biggest problem was the lack of roads. One forded creeks and drove over roots of trees, often many miles around muskegs.

As other settlers came in, a need for a school increased. A meeting was called to order at Hellerviks, to form a school board. Mr. Trarback, Axel Hansen, and Harold Hellervik were elected to the board with Hellervik as chairman, Mrs. John Whetham was secretary. The board contacted the Alberta Government to see what the procedure would be. The answer came back shortly, with instructions, and plans got under way with many people in the district helping with cutting and hauling the logs, and hewing and putting up the building according to the government plans for that site. Dick Shute donated 2 acres of land on the S. W. corner of his quarter for a school site.

Two sawmills in the district, Arthur Burrows and Robt. VanVolkanburg donated lumber. Mr. E. Whetham gave tar paper and shingle nails for the roof. Ben Nelsen made desks and everyone helped get the building up. Then the women pitched in to clean windows and get the school ready for the first teacher, a Mrs. Smith. She was seventy years old, a very capable woman in a new district. The school started in September 1939 with Pete, Ida, Lionel and Elsie Whetham, Walter and Dorothy Eggleston, Elsie, Helmet, William, Lilly and Andrew Trarback, and Sylvia Hellervik.

THE ALBERT WIESNER STORY

Ah, Shangri-la! Thank heaven for first impressions. We, Albert and Florence Wiesner, with family, Larry and June, left the Drumheller mining area in May 1949 for our destination in the lush Wenham Valley, somewhere around Edmonton, en route to the North Pole. Al had purchased a quarter of land, the vital statistics being NW $\frac{1}{4}$ -47-3-W5, from Bill Shephard in 1945, but the attractive wages of the mines kept us until May 1949 when we decided that was it.

We spent the first summer here, Al worked for Malcolm Nicholson. This quarter was the original Jones land, where the Wenham Valley Post Office was once located. After the summer months, we moved to the Nicholson farm adjoining ours, where the Wenham Valley Post Office was in operation at the time. We continued this service for three years until the Post Office was closed down. We rented the Nicholson half section for seven years, learning the do's and dont's of bush farming by trial and error, as we found it entirely different from prairie farming. At this time, the land was sold to Rienold Stelmacher, and



Florench & Albert Wiesner
& only grandson, Darcy
Jovan - March 25, 1972.

we moved to the Smith farm near Breton. After four years the Nicholson farm was sold once more to Tom Edwardson of Dorothy, Alberta and we again came back to rent it for five years.

After the passing of Tom Edwardson, we moved back to our own quarter for a couple of years. By this time, our family had finished their schooling at Breton and Warburg and gone their own road in life. Larry made his home in Thompson, Manitoba, where he married and is raising our three granddaughters. June lives in Edmonton and is raising our only grandson.

We made many friends in these twenty-three years and one occasion that remains indelibly in our minds was when friends and strangers swarmed to help as a bush fire threatened our house and contents in May of 1968. Words can never express the appreciation felt at a time like that.

We are now living in Edmonton but still commute to our Shangri-la for quiet and relaxation.

WILLIAM WELCH

Mr. Bill Welch came to Canada in 1902 and homesteaded at Ferry Point. He freighted supplies with horses from Wetaskiwin to Ferry Point Store.



Mr. & Mrs. Welch and six of
their girls - 1923.

In 1919, he, his wife and seven daughters moved from Donalds to Edson in a covered wagon taking two and a half months. They went by way of the High Level Bridge in Edmonton to St. Albert then back to Stoney Plain. They left Edson in 1927, going to Sedgewick. 1929 saw the family again on the move. They arrived in Winfield, October 31, 1929 and stayed on the old Astle place the first night, then to land two miles east and one mile north of Winfield. Eunice, Daisy and Beth attended Winfield School with Mrs. Anna Taylor as teacher. Some neighbours were Mr. and Mrs. Hustad, Ellingsons, McLaughlins.

Mr. Welch contracted logging at three cents per log. In 1930 he had the misfortune of getting his leg broken

and the family lived on potatoes and vegetables with no salt for six weeks.

Mr. and Mrs. Welch were married sixty years. Mrs. Welch died July 18, 1960. Mr. Welch is still living although blind, at the age of ninety-seven, August 24th, 1971.

Eunice married Laurence Platz July 15th, 1933 and at that time received wages of fifty cents per day.

LILY WENHAM



Lily Wenham - Wenham Valley was named after her father, Mark Wenham. There were five children, Bill, Len and Lily and two children deceased and buried on the farm. The family left the district in 1926.

JOHN WHEALE FAMILY

John Wheale and his wife and family arrived in the Wenham Valley district on June 22, 1922 having arrived from Red Deer by horse and wagon and settled on the NE¹-17-47-3-W5 where their youngest daughter now resides, (Mrs. J. Hardy).

When we arrived, quite a number were already settled. The Archie Gillies family. Mr. Gillies registered my Dad's application to file on land. The Bunneys, Wenhams, Doc. Covey. Doc Covey lived just south of the Jas. Bunneys and once pulled three or four teeth for my mother without any freezing or anesthetic of any kind.

I remember going with my dad to his place in winter time. Dad traded him a \$25.00 violin for a load of bundles to feed our cow. Doc tried the violin and used spruce gum on the bow instead of resin. He also built his own coffin and had it under the bed hewed from tamarac logs. I understand he was buried in it later.

Others settled were Harry Asher, Bob Hill, Mrs. Goodhand and son, Ed. Ed Eliot or Uncle Ed as nearly everyone called him was on the NE 20-47-3-W5. Dan Nicholson, Gus Diesting, Ed and Ward Snell, who operated one of the early sawmills. Eight or ten years later came Tom Swanby, SW 17-47-3-W5, Dan McLeod on Harry Askers place, NE 17-47 3-W5, and Fowler on Gambles place, SW 16-47-3-W5.

The first mail driver I remember was Mr. Ramsay who hauled mail from Breton to Wenham Valley and delivered on the way at least some of it with his horse and buggy. He was so friendly, always smiled when I met him as a boy five or six years old. My mother, the late Mrs. John Wheale, later hauled the mail, once arriving in Breton with horses and cutter and was told it was 52 degrees below. Dad was away working for the C.P.R. in the late 1920's.

My father was a locomotive engineer for the C.P.R. before coming to the Valley and worked for the C.P.R. as night watchman and fireman for the work train when the railroad was being built through Winfield and Breton, etc., in approximately 1925 or 1926.

As regards to wages and prices at the time. My Dad worked for Snell Bros. as steam engineer and fireman on a steam engine running the saw mill for \$1.10 per day. The mill ran ten hours per day. Dad had to be on the job at 5 a.m. to get steam up in time to start at seven. I remember him saying he had to pay \$5.00 for a hundred pound sack of flour at the time. We, as young children, usually went bare foot in summer time. One fall there fell about an inch of snow while we were in school and we were still bare foot. We rode three quarters of a mile north with Joe Baines on the back of his buggy and made the mile west to home on foot in record time and were not any the worse for the experience.

W. Wheale.

BRENTON BENNETT WEST - November 10, 1971.

Brenton Bennett West was born in Maryland, U.S.A. in 1880. He first came to Canada in 1903, and some time thereafter settled in the Drumheller district of Alberta, in a mixed farming venture. In the year 1921, Brenton West and Florence Agnes Carter were married in Calgary, Alberta. They had a family of three children, Brenton Allen (Bob), Joan Ella and Charlie. Florence Carter had a son by a former marriage by the name of Ernest Carter. Ernest's father was killed during the first world war. In 1934, Mr. West and family moved to a homestead midway between Winfield and Pendryl, Alberta. During the following years Mr. West and family were able to establish a comfortable living on their farm by raising a few cattle and some 60 to 70 sheep. In the spring of 1942, Mr. West entered an Edmonton hospital after not feeling well for some time. His condition was not thought to be serious at the time, but after being in the hospital a few days he passed away very suddenly on June 11, 1942.

Mrs. West, her daughter, Joan, and son, Charlie, stayed on the farm the following year. Consequently, they found farm life too much of a responsibility to manage. In the fall of 1943, Mrs. West held a sale of their farm properties, after which she and her family moved to Calgary, Alberta, to live until 1948. During the fall of that same year, Mrs. West and family moved to Edmonton, where this has been the family's home-base for the past 20 years.

Going back a few years to 1945 when Bob West and Rose Shilmar were married in Calgary. Shortly after this happy event Bob and Rose were transferred to Edmonton by Imperial Oil, whom Bob had been employed by for several years. Bob is presently working for Imperial Oil, but he is contemplating retirement this coming year. Bob and Rose have

daughter, Gwen, and a son, Allen. Gwen is married to Dennis Erickson, and they are the proud parents of a lovely daughter. Allen is still unattached.

Mrs. West spent many years living in Edmonton devoting much of her wisdom and energies toward her family and friends. In December of 1966, Mrs. West passed away of a heart attack in the Misericordia Hospital.

Mrs. West's daughter, Joan Lawson, is living in Edmonton with her family. Two sons living at home, Budd age 12, and Patrick age 10. Dale Lawson, being Joan's oldest son, was married to Mary Ellen Bough on September 4th, 1971. The happy newly weds are residing in Edmonton. Charlie West and his wife, Evelyn, live in Hinton, Alberta where they own and publish "The Hinton Parklander". They have no children.

Written by Joan Lawson.

WENNERSTROM STORY

Mr. and Mrs. Philip Wennerstrom and seven children took up residence on the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ 31-45-6-W5 in the early part of July, 1931. We had moved up from Elnora, which is about 45 miles southeast of Red Deer. Dad had previously driven up by wagon over the Iola trail and built a small, but sturdy, log cabin which we all lived in until another larger cabin was completed that fall. Their purpose in coming here was to get cheap land, escape the drought which was prevalent on the prairies. Also the great depression was under way. As well, they liked the bush country as it reminded them to some extent of their native Sweden.

Others from the Elnora area who took up land in the Buck Lake district were Mr. A. O. Hicks, Sam Johnson, the Pennock brothers and H. H. Hannam. However, of these, only Mr. Hicks and Mr. Johnson took up residence on their homesteads. Early neighbours in the Wash Out Creek area were: A. O. Hicks, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ 25-45-7-W5, Sam Johnson, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ 25-45-7-W5, George Doran, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ 30-45-6-W5, George Feniak, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ 19-45-6-W5, Steve Pozgai, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ 20-45-6-W5, Henning Naslund, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ 30-45-6-W5, Einar Adamson, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ 22-45-7-W5, Ivar Vicklund, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ 27-45-7-W5, George Kohut, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ 6-46-6-W5.

All of these except Naslund were the first to file on the lands mentioned, most of these came in the early thirties.

Without exception, most of the early settlers endured incredible hardships. There were no roads west of the Siegel hill. The clay soil was unproductive at first, and gardens and crops were very poor. Lack of income was the rule rather than the exception.

June and July of 1931 were marked by almost continuous heavy rains. Trails were almost impassable. Flies and mosquitos caused acute discomfort to people as well as livestock. As a consequence of this, the first couple of years on the homestead were trying times, especially for those with large families.

Income was supplemented in many ways - squirrel hunting, some trapping for furs, cutting posts, clearing land for neighbours with axe for \$5.00 per acre.

Lack of income was compensated for to some extent by abundance of wild game which was used for meat the year round. These included moose, deer, bear and numerous ruffed grouse. There were very few elk or beaver in the district in the early thirties. Also whitefish were easily caught and without regard to requirements of the law. Wild fruit was moderately plentiful. In addition, there was lots of timber for building logs and wood. You just helped yourself. Shingles were made from pine logs - either by hand splitting or with horses pulling a shingle plow. Good shiplap lumber could be purchased for \$12.00 per M.

Big fires in 1939, 1940 and 1941 destroyed thousands of acres of wood land - much of it valuable timber. The lighted tips of spruce trees landed in our yard which was 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ miles away from the fire. In 1941, I spent four months fighting fires and mapping the burned areas afterward. At this time, fires were burning over most of the area between Rocky Mountain House and Alder Flats. Several sawmills were destroyed, a herd of sheep in the Faraway district perished and one elderly man was burned to death. Fires were also burning south of Buck Lake at the same time.

Dances were the main form of entertainment for the young people. They used to last until 4 or 5 o'clock in the morning. During the early thirties, Joe Laczko, Tony Matuna and Carl Sheflo played for the dances at Buck Lake. Usually proceedings were enlivened by the liberal consumption of home-brew which cost 50¢ to 75¢ for a small bottle. Some of it was rather potent and caused severe hangovers, while other makers turned out liquor of rather high quality.

Eric Wennerstrom

JOHN WHEALE SR.

Mr. and Mrs. Wheale had a family of eight. Four sons, John, who lives on a farm in the Breton district and owns a store in Breton. Former dwellers on John's farm were Mr. and Mrs. Marwood, Ed Elliot, Syd Bearchell. Former owners were Ed Elliot, Mrs. Jack Carmichael, Jim Litkey. John and Molly have 3 sons, Bruce, Vernon and Jim and one daughter, Marjorie.

Bill Wheale lives on a farm west of Rimbey. Bill and Thelma have one son, Brian and three daughters, Linda (Mrs. E. Clintberg of Edmonton), Marlene and Betty. Bill owned the quarter formerly owned by Mr. and Mrs. Goodhand. Mr. and Mrs. Goodhand had one daughter, Augusta. She married Jack Carmichael. They had one daughter, Charlotte. Augusta Carmichael was one of the pioneer school teachers of the Modeste Valley School. Augusta sold the quarter to John Wheale Sr. who in time sold it to the present owner, Reuben Steinke.

Richard Wheale lives at Nanaimo, B. C. Richard and Elaine have one daughter, Darlene (Mrs. R. Craven) of Seattle. Richard and Elaine owned and lived on the quarter in the Wenham Valley, formerly owned by Harry Asher, Dan McLeod, then Harry Atkins. Jack Hardy owns it now. Richard sold it to John Wheale Sr. and Jack purchased it from him.

Catherine Wheale (Mrs. Carl Rosted) lives at Glendon, Alberta. Carl and Catherine have one son, Kenneth of Breton and two daughters, Erna (Mrs. P. McGaffin) of Red Deer and Joyce of Red Deer. Carl homesteaded the quarter later owned by Syd Bearchell's, V. Hooper, Mr. Long and now owned by J. Hardy. Later, Carl owned, and they lived on, the quarter now owned by Jim Coombes. Former owners were G. G. Impey, Jim Impey and John Reid. Also they owned and lived on the quarter Jim Aldous lives on now.

Alice Wheale (Mrs. Victor Hooper) lives at Enderby, B. C. Victor and Alice have three sons, David, Victor and Murray, and two daughters, Mae and Kathy. Alice owned the quarter where Jim Aldous lives. Mr. Long also owned it, then Carl Rosted. Victor owned the quarter homesteaded by Carl Rosted, now owned by Jack Hardy. Other owners of that quarter were Syd Bearchell and Mr. Long.

Irene Wheale (Mrs. J. Hardy) Lives on the old Wheale homestead where the first pioneer dwelling is still used for a hen house. The second home is still standing near Hardy's new home, built in 1970. Jack and Irene have two daughters, Margaret and Elsie. In the Breton and Wenham Valley area there are producing oil wells now on some of the quarters.

The John Wheale's Sr. lost one little girl, Thelma, at the age of three before they moved to Wenham Valley. The Wheale children attended the Modeste Valley school as it was called then. They had about 2 miles to walk. Some of the time they went by horse and cutter. Sam and Irene went on a sleigh pulled by their big dog, as did some of the other children who had dogs that would pull the sleigh. Those were the great old days. A few dog fights took place as each boy thought his dogs could fight the best.

SAM WHEALE

In the summer of 1963, Sam Wheale purchased the half section formerly owned by J. K. Penley. Sam lived in other parts before moving into the Yeoford district. He grew up in Wenham Valley. Sam and Gwenne have a family of three sons, Terry, Allan and Robin and one daughter, Sharron. We moved here in the fall. On October 31, we moved our cattle here by truck. Our house arrived the following day at dusk. It was great to see our home arrive, none the worse for a 100 mile ride on wheels from Innisfail, where it sat up on wheels ready to roll, over Halloween night on our farm there.

Different people lived on the J. K. Penley quarters before us. Some were Syd Bearchells. They owned and lived on a quarter nearer Breton and the Bearchell children attended the Wenham Valley School. The Jones's, the Rustle's, a number of bachelors, and the Ryan's. One bachelor built a house that was taller than it was wide. People called it the elevator. A well built log house was built later. On the other quarter, an old Finlander had some buildings which were lost in a bush fire before 1920. They had a 40 foot dug well. This was a worry to many around when there were no fences and everyone's cattle roamed at free range. We bought the quarter formerly owned by Ed Peterson. His pioneer cabin still stands on the hillside a short way from a good flowing spring. Ed Peterson was well known around Wetaskiwin where he lived after leaving his homestead in Wenham Valley.

We own the quarter formerly owned by Mr. Swamby. He came in the 30's. Many people remember him walking out across the swamps and bush for the few necessary

groceries and supplies he needed. He was a good cook of bread and different meat dishes. He made many different varieties of jams and jellies from wild berries that were plentiful then. His delight was to get some young fellows around him and start telling stories. I don't think anyone knew if his stories were true but no one cared. Tom Swamby's pioneer cabins were still standing until a bush fire in 1968 burned them down. They stood near a flowing spring that runs all year round. Our hay flat quarter was owned years ago by Baker's. They had pioneer buildings there but they were burned and gone before W. Marwood, Sam's grandfather, bought it in May 1928. Sam's mother owned it for a number of years and sold it to Sam when Mr. and Mrs. Wheale retired from the farm and moved to Enderby. Our other quarter was formerly owned by Jap Bunney. Mr. and Mrs. Bunney moved to Wetaskiwin in the 40's. Mrs. Bunney, now Mrs. Kindig, still lives in Wetaskiwin today.

Some of the saw mills that were in this area that I can remember were Elliason's, Dolgrin's, McDougall's, Grant's, Snell's, Sanford Nelson's, Anthony's, Fraser's and Pearson's.

Some of the teachers at the Modeste Valley School were Augusta Goodhand, Miss Bentley, Miss Shenfield, Glen Carmichael, Mr. Edgerton, Anna Moir, Miss Husband, Isobel Zarowski, Mrs. White, Jean Fullerton and Viola Swanson.

MR. AND MRS. NILS WICKMAN

Nils Wickman came from Sweden to Canada approximately 1916 or 1917 and found everything to his liking. Wages were pretty good and jobs plentiful working on railways. He then returned to Sweden and married Lava Peterson. To this marriage five children were born, Krystine, Sylvia, Ruth, Alfild and Esther. 1929 saw the whole family coming to Canada. They had sold their property in Sweden and made Edmonton their home for a year. Wages and jobs were getting poorer every day and jobs were very scarce so Nils decided he just had to get out of the city and find himself a home land. He filed first, as going out to look would take too much time and in the meantime, another homesteader may have picked the same piece of land for himself.

Arriving in Maywood district, they rented Gus Bjur's old house (across from John Engblom's farm) until their house was built. This was a square hewn log house about 18 x 24, two rooms downstairs and bedrooms upstairs. This was home for the next 10 years. During this time, Nils and family cleared about 40 acres, all done the hard way. Brush was cut out with an axe by Nils and the rest of the family piled it and later, when dried out, the piles were burned. At first, breaking was done with horses but in later years a neighbour did the breaking with a tractor and breaking plow.

In 1945, due to ill health, the farm was sold to Mr. Starr Beck. The three middle girls had gone to Kelowna, B. C. in 1943 to work. Esther remained with her parents. Krystine married Mike Goodkey and stayed in Alberta until 1954. During this time, Mike was lift truck operator for Carroll Bros. at Winfield for 5 years.

Sylvia, Alfild and Ruth liked Kelowna and advised their parents to move there. They made Kelowna their home until their deaths, Lava in 1949 and Nils in 1960.

All the girls went to school at Maywood. Some teachers remembered were Mrs. Taylor, Miss Blackwood, Mrs. Third, Mr. McGinnis and Mr. Kerrins, often nicknamed "Mr. Carrot".

The girls recall that four or five cows were kept for milk and the precious cream check that was used to buy groceries. There were also a few hogs and a flock of chickens. Nils supplemented their income by doing farm work for his neighbours.

Krystine and Mike live in Abbotsford, B. C. Mike is Head Mechanic at Canadian Refractories, Western Division. They have three children, Carol and the twins, boys named Jerry and Larry.

Sylvia married James Rosie. They have three children, Evelyn, James and Mary Ann. They live at Abbotsford, B. C.

Ruth married Vernon Kitto and lives at Kelowna, B. C. They have five children, Bruce, Lorraine, Murray, Brian (deceased) and Joyce.

Alfild married Clare Holford. They make their home at Kelowna, B. C. and have three children, Karen, Eric and Connie.

Esther married Ervin Schwartz. There are six children, Theodore, Darlene, Kenneth, Katherine, Dorothy and Douglas (twins). All live at Kelowna, B. C.

ANNA MOYER WICKSTROM
Wenham Valley School - 1931 - 1934.

There was a surplus of teachers when I came out of Edmonton Normal School in the spring of 1931. All summer I wrote out applications without results. Then in October I heard from a friend, of a school being built in Wenham Valley for grades one to five. Immediately I applied in person. Glen Carmichael was then teaching forty or more pupils in grades one to eleven so it had become necessary to divide the work. He directed me to the members of the School Board, Mrs. Walter Baynes, Mrs. Nicholson and Jap Bunney. I was told to write out an application and it would be decided at the next meeting. At the end of October, just when I had given up hope, there was a phone call telling me I could start teaching the first of November.

Early Friday morning I got on the train at Leduc for the trip to Breton. I was surprised to see a pot-bellied stove in one corner of the coach. It smoked furiously before giving enough heat to take off the chill. That morning the coach was filled with people. A good deal of visiting was done back and forth. Even the fireman and the brakeman had time to converse with the passengers. Frequent stops were made along the way and it was noon before we reached Breton.

Mrs. Baynes had brought the buggy and horse Dan, to meet me. We had plenty to discuss all the way to her home where I was to board for a month. It was the first of many conversations. Having been trained as a nurse in London, she had many interesting experiences to relate. On Sunday, the Baynes family took me for a walk in the forest. Pine trees were new to me. The woods seemed alive with rabbits and squirrels.

On Monday morning, Nellie, Mary, Joe and I climbed into the buggy and Dan pulled us the four miles or so to the school. I don't remember much about that first day except that the pupils were friendly and well behaved. There were twenty-six pupils in the five grades I was to teach. Some of the family names I remember from both schools were: Shepherd, Bunney, Wheale, Snell, Baynes, Bolt, Bowman, Rathgeber, Nicholson, Gillies, Deisting, Reid, Hill, Cambridge, McLeod, Impey and Hunter.

Having just come to the district from Africa, Maye and George Impey were delighted with the first snowfall. At noon in winter, some of the children brought sleds and coasted down the hill north of the school.

Depression years brought food and clothing shortages to some families, so attendance was not always regular. Schoolwork was sometimes done on scraps of brown paper brought from home when the parents didn't get to town to buy scribblers. Excellent board was provided for only \$20.00 per month. However, it became impossible to pay even this small amount in cash because taxes were slow in coming in so there wasn't enough money to pay the teacher's \$700.00 salary regularly. Every month the family who boarded the teacher could buy groceries and have them charged to the school board. Many teachers did not receive their full salary until a year or two after they had left their districts.

There were no phones in Wenham Valley but Bowmans owned a radio.

The highlight of the school year was the Christmas Concert. Planning started in November. Both schools went together to put on the program. Jap Bunney's lent their organ.

The district was very sociable. I was invited out to supper often and sometimes for the weekend. People generously put their saddle horses at my disposal. Some of the young people would ride to ball games or to Battle Lake to fish. Several times Mrs. Jap Bunney took me along to Winfield when she carried mail from Nicholson's Post Office.

Schools were frequently used for dances. Desks were pushed to the wall or carried outside. Alvin, Roy and Earling Wold provided us with peppy dance music. After midnight-lunch someone was asked to sing. I still remember a few of the songs. There was "My Arkansas Sweetheart" by Dugald Gillies. Mr. Davis the young exchange student from Wales sang "Aint She Sweet!" to his own accompaniment of the banjo-ukelee, and Walter Baynes obliged with "Where Did You Get That Hat?"

We all had such good times at the dances that we kept on until three or four in the morning. Young or old, everyone danced with everyone else. Liquor was not a problem since no one could afford it. Even smoking among women was almost unheard of. Several high school girls were absolutely horrified one night to see a strange girl smoke a cigarette at a dance.

There was no church in the district but a United Church Minister from Breton held services in the school once a month. Few people attended. One Sunday the congregation

consisted of Margaret Gillies and I. A church was built at Knob Hill at that time and some of the people from Wenham Valley attended.

We had a frightening experience when I was boarding at Reids. A stove became overheated and before we noticed, the pipes became red hot and sparks were flying. There was no well on the farm. The only water we had was in a cream can. Walter Reid quickly carried it outside, placed a ladder against the house, climbed onto the roof and directed his mother to dip up water in a small pail and hand it to him to pour down the pipe. By the time the water was gone the fire was under control. The house was saved.

Lenore Husband who taught the senior grades during the second and third years of my stay, was an expert director of plays. A spooky three-act play put on at Hallowe'en stands out in my memory.

At the end of three years there weren't enough pupils left to keep two schools open so they decided to combine them again. Only one teacher would be needed. Lenore and I resigned. Augusta Goodhand was the next Wenham Valley teacher.

Anna (Moyer) Wickrstrom



Two Schools Together - 1934 - Wenham Valley

Front Row (l. to r.): Effie Bowman, Christine Nicholson, Alfred Snell, August Deisting, Mayer Impey, Irene Wheale, Diane Skoglund, Alvena Macleod

Second Row: Sam Wheale, Adolph Rathgeber, George Impey, Stanley Hunter, Eddy Deisting, Alice Wheale, Pauline Macleod, Mina Deisting, Carrie Bunney, Mary Rathgeber.

Third Row: Richarda Husband (substituting for sister Lenore who was ill), Ruth Bunney, Lillian Deisting, Alberta Bunney, Pauline Rathgeber, Annie Skogland, Nellie Baynes, Alma Reid, Christine Nicholson, Mary Baynes

Back Row: Anna Moyer (Teacher), Shirley Hill, Mary Reid, Amelia Deisting, Kathleen Bunney, Ellen Snell, Lue Bunney, Don Gillies, Richard Wheale, Joe Baynes, Colin Gillies.

WENHAM VALLEY SCHOOLS - New Grades I - V, teacher Anna Moyer. Old Grades VI - XI, teachers Glen Carmichael and Lenore Olson.



Louise Wilkenson,
daughter of Julius and
Julia Hagen daughter of
Henry Hagen - 1923.



JULIUS WILKINSON

The Julius Wilkinson family came in 1923 to Yeoford area because a son filed a timber lease on a quarter of land by Art Ellingson's to take timber off. After about one year, he gave it up and moved back to Donalda. While here, they enjoyed the comforts of a frame home on Eric Norlin's homestead, SE 25-46-3-W5. Florence Wilkinson married E. L. Chinell and they now live at Knob Hill on SW 27-46-3-W5.

JOHN AND JANE WILLIAMSON

John and Jane Williamson came to Canada from Holland in 1952 and took work near Ferintosh. Having had a few bees in Holland for pollinating purposes, and only getting 20 or 30 pounds of honey, was surprised to learn potential in Alberta was 150 pounds per hive, so they again got bees. In November 1954, they moved to Edmonton, John keeping bees and trying out several jobs. In April 1965, they took over the farm from Julius Yeuhaz and were able to expand in the bee business as well as the farming. In the fall of 1971, he sold the bee business keeping only a few for himself.

Besides farming, Williamson's ran Yeoford Store and P. O. from August 1967 to April 26, 1969. They have four children, Ted, Jane, Mark and Bobby who take their schooling at Winfield.

MR. AND MRS. RICHARD WILLIAMS



Mr. & Mrs. Richard Williams - lived in old police barracks east of old Yeoford store site in 1945. Mr. Williams passed away 1955.

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Williams were a retired Welsh couple who lived beside the Yeoford Store in the police barracks on NE 30-46-2-W5. They always had a beautiful garden. Mr. Williams passed away in July 1955. Being an ambitious person, he cut the hay in the yard and put it up in his hay mow with a fork. Neighbours bought the hay to supplement their hay supply

THE STORY OF THE WILSONS BY MARY AND DAVID WILSON

We, Mr. and Mrs. David Wilson, arrived at Battle Lake on July 1, 1938, driving over very rough, deep rutted roads in our 1929 Chevrolet Coupe to settle on the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ 19-45 1-W5, C.P.R. land. It was quite level but covered with trees, stumps and brush. After we moved off in 1939 without becoming the owners, it was purchased by Armand Nadeau. In a short time, Mr. Nadeau sold to Glen Beath who is the owner of the property now.

David and I, (no family), had previously resided in Calgary. The Depression was on and it was impossible to find employment in the city. We were ambitious and anxious to try our luck in the country. We wished to settle in the Battle Lake district because we found the people to be very friendly. We thought it would be quite possible to clear up the quarter of land gradually and turn it into a good farm. We planned to build a log house and have a real good garden. It was going to be our home. Mr. Wilson felt quite sure that he would find employment, when necessary, at the small lumber mills that were scattered throughout the timber covered country.

The trip from Calgary to Battle Lake, approximately two hundred miles, in our little 1929 Chevrolet Coupe took us two full days. At that time Highway No. 2 was under construction but not paved. The surface was covered with at least four inches of loose gravel and almost impossible for anyone to drive over forty miles per hour. It was wonderful when we got on the road that went west from Wetaskiwin to Pigeon Lake because it was heavily packed and real smooth. From Westeros to Battle Lake and further on, the road was not much more than a narrow trail. The car wheels had to travel along in the deep ruts and the body of the car would often drag hard on the high centre of the trail.

We had the C. P. R. transport our few pieces of furniture from Calgary up to Winfield. Our new neighbour helped with his wagon and team of horses to move our belongings from Winfield to Battle Lake.

During July and August, David worked hard with axe and saw. He built a very good log house. It was about twenty-four feet long and twenty feet wide. He put an extra good roof on it and covered it with heavy jack-pine shingles. While our log house was being built, we lived in a tent. Our large kitchen range had to sit out in the open and so did our table. The mosquitos were extra friendly as well as hungry. It was necessary for us to keep smudges burning in order to keep the hungry pests away. I had a rather strange experience when baking bread. It was necessary for us to use the over-night, slow rising yeast. How do you think I kept the yeast mixture warm during the night? Here is where I made good use of my two hot water bottles. I was able to bake good bread every time.

Our Battle Lake Post Master was Ken Hunter who had operated the Post Office for

many years. Then it was moved to Wm. A. Jones home. Battle Lake Post Office is closed now. All the mail for the Battle Lake residents is handled by Westerose officials by Rural Mail Delivery.

The school in the Battle Lake district was Cree Valley School, just a one room, nine grades rural school. The first teacher we know was Miss Jean Spencer, and then Miss Dorothy Bean, followed by Miss Mae Bunney, and Mrs. Berna Freeman taught from Easter on. At the closure of the Cree Valley School, the Lakedell Consolidated School was opened two miles straight west of Westerose on Highway 13.

Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Freeman now reside in Sicamous, B. C. They still love to spend the warm summer months in their cozy home out at Battle Lake.

We got our supplies from the Battle Lake General Store. It was owned and operated by Mr. John Fontaine and son, George, for many years. They sold out to Mr. Wm. Jones. Next Elvin and Anna Wold and three sons; then Mike and Judy Skotnitsky had the store. The next owners were Mr. E. Tribiger and Mrs. Selma Lahultts. They closed the store to use as residential quarters for the E. Tribiger family.

We had wonderful close neighbours. They were Mr. and Mrs. Ross Beath and family. They lived on NW 19-45-1-W5, west of where we planned to build a home and reside. These folks helped us in many ways. We packed good fresh water from their well. They supplied us steadily with milk, cream and eggs. Lots of lovely fresh vegetables were handed to us from their large, well cared for garden. Home made ice cream was a treat that they shared with us almost every Sunday afternoon for several months.

Mrs. Beath (June) and I picked tubs full of wild blueberries, strawberries and raspberries during the months of July and August. I sold a good portion of the blueberries that I picked and cleaned, to Mr. J. Fontaine and his son at the Battle Lake Store for seven cents a pound. I then had finances for the purchase of preserve jars and sugar so that I could preserve all the wild berries that we did not use or sell.

June and Ross Beath had a happy little family of one girl (Betty Mae, nine years old) and three boys (Glen, seven, Lloyd, six and Raymond, one). In 1942, their second little daughter, Elsie, came into the family and then in 1945, little Evelyn was born. All of these children are married now and have homes of their own.

Betty Mae Beath became the wife of Wm. Bunney on July 20, 1946. They settled on a farm one quarter mile south of Yeoford Store. Here they raised their family of three boys and one girl. This little bungalow is still the home of the Bunney's.

Glen Beath married Miss Leah Baumann. They farm three quarters and their home is to the north and across the road from where David and I built our log house in 1938. They have a family of three - two boys and one girl.

Lloyd Beath, the second oldest son, married Miss Thelma Lawrence of Maine, U.S.A. This couple chose to live in U.S.A. at 7042 Topaz Alta Loma, C. 91701. They have a family of four; three girls and one boy.

Raymond Beath, the youngest son, married Miss Patricia Geddes. Employment conditions for Raymond have made it necessary for them to move about a lot. They have a family of four girls. At present, they live at Lodgepole, Alberta.

Evelyn Beath became the wife of Kenneth Walters. They have a family of three girls and one boy. They are farmers south-west of Warburg, Alta.

Elsie Beath became the wife of Robert M. Veitch. They reside in Wetaskiwin. They have one girl and one boy.

In the year 1954, June and Ross Beath became the owners of the Christ Hammerl farm, the former home of the pioneer Ed Nadeau family. All the buildings are just south of the old Cree Valley School. The family was delighted indeed to move into the two storey house.

In 1956, June Beath passed away. Ross Beath was farming and was left now with his two youngest daughters, Elsie and Evie, at home. Ross now lives alone, and at seventy-one, is still farming and batching.

To the south of us were Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Gronow and family. To the north, Mr. and Mrs. David Hempstock and family. We did not get to know these neighbours as well as the Beath family.

We did visit quite often and got to know Mr. and Mrs. Syd Cotterill. They lived two miles west of us. Often we got pleasure playing cards with them. These folks had settled at Battle Lake about two years before us. They, like most others in the district, were faced with the difficult task of trying to clear the land of trees, stumps and brush, and worked very hard for many years. They moved from the farm to Wetaskiwin.

To the north-east of us lived my parents, two brothers and one sister, Mr. and Mrs. Martin Young, Archie, Dalbert and Mabel Young. They had moved up from Wayne, Alberta the same time as we had moved up from Calgary. They moved all of their belongings into the old Kortzman place and there they lived. Due to age and poor health, my father was unable to farm. He passed away in 1950 in a Camrose Hospital. In 1960, my mother passed away in Wetaskiwin, and my sister, Mabel, in 1970. Dalbert now lives in Leduc, Alberta. Archie, his wife and family live in Golden, B. C. He is a mechanic in the Ford garage.

David, with a little assistance from me, managed to get our log house finished sufficiently so that we could get all our belongings moved inside before real cold weather set in. We purchased a heater and wood was our fuel. David was kept busy.

Farming conditions throughout the Battle Lake district, as well as other surrounding districts, were extremely poor. Many families, like ourselves, moved into the district in poor financial conditions, hoping to build a house and make progress. It was necessary to cut down trees, dig out the roots and haul them up into large piles to be burned. This was a very slow, difficult job and most farmers had very little, if any power equipment, and horses had to be used.

Occasionally, someone would try burning the trees off instead of cutting them down. This was quite dangerous, of course, but it was also found that the fire would burn up all the top soil, leaving the clay subsoil bare. It was then necessary to apply a good fertilizer to the clay subsoil in order to get it to produce a crop of any kind after it was brought under cultivation.

The main community entertainment took place at the Cree Valley School. Usually, the Christmas concert was put on in Battle Lake Church by the teacher and her pupils. Dances or large gatherings of any kind were at the school. The Beath's had little picnics quite often during the summer and we were always invited to attend. This we did with great pleasure.

We enjoyed living in our first log house. It was warm and comfortable. David did not find as much employment as he expected, therefore, our monthly income was very small. The price of groceries, etc., in 1938 and for many years to follow, was just a fraction of what they are today (1971). A pound of butter was twenty-five cents; a pound of coffee was forty-nine cents. A ten pound bag of sugar was one dollar. A four pound tin of pure jam - sixty-nine cents. Today it's \$1.32.

A great change came into our livelihood on February 1, 1939 when a letter from Mr. J. Scofield, Superintendent of the Wetaskiwin School District requested that I sign the enclosed Teacher Contract and teach the one room, newly built Peaceful Valley School. I was highly delighted to get the opportunity to teach. The school was located about six and a half miles south of where we were living and no residential accommodation near the school so I used a horse and a light home constructed sleigh to make the trip back and forth to the school five days each week. The snow was deep and the weather was certainly cold. At the end of February I received a lovely, sixty-nine dollar cheque. David became the house keeper. When the snow was deep and the weather was extra cold (forty or fifty degrees below zero) I had to start out for school at about 6:30 a.m. It was necessary for me to go about a quarter of a mile past the school in order to put Danny (my horse) into an old deserted barn for a little winter protection. Often he would have to jump to get through the deep snow drifts going across the open field from the school to the old barn and I had a very difficult time wading back through the deep snow to the school. Mr. Scofield was pleased with my work so I taught for another term.

I spent six weeks attending Summer School in Calgary. To put an end to the long, tiring drive that I had been making back and forth to the Peaceful Valley School, we purchased a quarter section of land from Mr. Tom Hauge. This was located immediately south of the school and extended on southward up and over the hill of the valley. An active Lumber Mill, near the west end of the quarter was owned and operated by Mr. Joe Midtdal. While I was attending Summer School, David built a cosy two roomed shack within walking distance of the school. I was happy indeed that the long drives had been ended. David became steadily employed at the Lumber Mill. We discontinued claim on our C.P.R. land, and no longer had to look to the Government for assistance of any kind. I taught five terms here.

David accepted employment by the Standard Gravel Co. Ltd. operating in Calgary and we moved back to Calgary. I taught in the city the term of 1943-44 and David worked till June 1944.

We purchased a new Brush Cutter and a sixty Caterpillar, and had them transported into the Battle Lake District early in July 1944. Friends throughout the district had expressed great hopes that someone would bring a Brush Cutter into the country and clear the land but

their financial conditions were too low to allow them to get brush cutting done. David and my brother, Archie, who was going to help operate the outfit, moved to the Breton district. Jobs could not be started on until surface conditions would permit in 1945.

David and Archie found employment in Lumber Mills, west of Winfield during the fall, winter and spring of 1944-45. We traded the quarter section south of the Peaceful Valley School to Mr. Arthur Nelson for a fairly new bungalow that he had built across the road from the Battle Lake Store and here I spent the winter of 1944 by myself while my husband was employed.

Spring of 1945, brush cutting started. We rented a small home in Breton and I moved out to be with David and Archie. Many acres of land were cleared. The outfit was kept operating steady for about a year and a half before jobs became scarce. We gave up and sold the outfit.

David got steady employment at Pierce's Lumber Mill on the west side of Breton. I started to teach school in Breton. My job was a very difficult one because most of the time I had an enrolment of about forty-six pupils in my three primary grades. We found the people in Breton to be very friendly and sociable.

The main forms of entertainment in this little town were much the same as over at Battle Lake, Christmas concerts, parties and picnics. There was a Community Hall in the town where many dances were held. Admission was always reasonable "Ladies Free and Gents twenty-five cents".

David and I attended many dances. Everyone would have a delightful time.

1948, David and I moved back to Calgary. He became employed as a Heavy Duty Mechanic by the Costello Equipment Co. Ltd. We purchased a lot in the city and had a bungalow built. I returned to Battle Lake with a few tools and pulled down our house, and moved it to Calgary to be used in our new home. Mr. Walter Ray of Breton hauled our lumber for us. Two carpenter friends at Breton, P. Conradson and his brother, Charles, built our new home in 1948. They constructed a sunroom in the basement and Bert Conradson moved his wife and family from Breton to reside in it. I had taught two of their sons in Breton. David and I were happy to be the owners of a new bungalow in the city.

In 1949, David became unemployed. I started teaching at Boyle, Alberta where I remained for one term. After I signed a contract with the High Prairie School District, we decided it best to sell our new city home.

At High Prairie, I had a class of twenty-two Grade One pupils. David found work in a Car Body Shop. At the end of June 1951, we moved to Calgary. David became employed again by the Costello Equipment Co. I became teacher of Grade Two in Rocky Mountain House. I had a pleasant year but the end of June I handed in my resignation. I continued teaching in the following Consolidated Schools in these towns:

1. Olds, Alberta - School term 1952-53 (one year)
2. Brant, Alberta - School term 1953-56 (three years)
3. Canmore, Alberta - School term 1956-57 (one year)
4. Mossleigh, Alberta - School term 1957-61 (four years)
5. Cochrane, Alberta - School term 1961-62 (one year).

David was employed by the Costello Equipment Co. until 1957. Then he got eleven months employment at the St. Regis Hotel, then three years at the Farwill Corporation.

In 1962, the Yeoford General Store was for sale, Mr. and Mrs. Colin Gillies, the owners. We purchased the Store, Bungalow, Gas pumps, etc. We took possession in June 1962. I ended my teaching at Cochrane on June 30, 1962 but I had to remain in the city and get rid of, (sell, pull down or move) our lovely bungalow. Operating the store and P. O. and gas pumps was a pleasure to David. Many customers came every day. The majority of the customers ran charge accounts. All but a few kept their accounts paid up, many of the accounts were two hundred dollars or more.

We sold to Mr. Daniel Holmes early in the fall of 1963. I started back at teaching in the Consolidated Lakedell School. We resided in a teacherage in the school yard. David located employment on various farms.

In 1965, he was again offered employment in Calgary with Costello Equipment Co. Ltd. and moved to Calgary again.

Thirteen pupils in Grade One at Rosebrier Consolidated School twenty miles south-east of Wetaskiwin and I was delighted to get such a wonderful opportunity. This was my twenty-fifth year of teaching and my easiest year too.

During July 1965, we searched in Calgary until we located a small bungalow, and had all our belongings transported back to the old city. David resided in the "new" house

and batched while I taught in the Rosebrier School.

I decided to retire from teaching - I had completed twenty-five years service and had no difficulty whatever obtaining my "Retired Teachers" pension. David retired in July 1971.

MORLEY WILLIAMS

I, Morley Williams, came to Battle Lake in June or July 1930. There was no gravel then. I was heading for Breton and it had rained most of the way since I left Wetaskiwin. The further I got, the stickier the roads got. On the north side of Battle Lake in front of A. C. Bunney's place, I met an old timer stuck in the ditch with an Oldsmobile Touring Car. I hitched on to him and helped him out at the same time tearing the rear end from the Oldsmobile. It was raining fairly hard and I asked his how far away he lived. He said, "5 miles". I said to him, "If you've got a bed for me when we get there, I'll take you home". He said, "We sure got that"! When we got there his wife prepared us a good meal and I stayed a few days till the rains were over and I came to like the country. It was old man Papineau who had homesteaded there. Esther, now Wyman, Fullerton's wife at Buck Lake, was their adopted daughter. They have an interesting history to tell. As regards to wages at that time - \$1.00 a day and board was top wages, most only paid 50¢ per day and board, but I guess things worked out somewhat proportionately as they are now.



Morley Williams taken
near Royal Hotel in
Calgary March 23, 1944.

I hauled spruce ship lap lumber eighteen miles with horses and received \$10.00 per M delivered. I bought dressed, milk fed pork, the best one could get, from Eddie Rattray for \$4.00 per 100 lbs. or say 4¢ a pound. We didn't have money to spend as we have now but they didn't need it to get their enjoyment, for they were all poor. Therefore, they had to feel closer to each other and they got their contentment from family and neighbourhood gatherings. South of Battle Lake, there runs a main trail made by the pioneers in the early days, but as it hadn't been graded for many years, most of the Old Timers had moved out, their log homes abandoned. Some of them had birch bark roofs instead of shingles. One time I was putting a plywood top on a haystack and a sudden burst of wind took me and plywood gliding to the ground.

Morley was born March 22, 1896 on a farm near Milan, Erie Co., Ohio. Parents were Delbert E. Williams and Amelia Eliz. Heimburger. There are two older brothers, Peter and Fred; one sister, Louise; two half-sisters, Dorothy and Mary.

Morley worked hard on the farm, saved his money, then struck out on his own. Worked the Western harvest one season then got a job with an oil well rigging outfit and for several years followed the wild-cat oil drilling business. I don't recall exactly when Morley went into Canada but he was with an oil-well outfit at the time, possibly 1927, 1928 or 1929. I have a letter from him dated 11-5-59 in which he does some reminiscing, to wit:

"In June or July 1930 when we could not buy a job I drove down to Cut Bank, Mont. intending to buy a half section of land I had long admired - very slightly rolling, real chocolate soil, lots of water and at the base of the hills, an ideal spread. All the way down from Claresholm soil was drifting like snow. When I got to my ideal, I detoured soil drifts way out into the road. There was still plenty of water but I was afraid it would become a desert. At the same time, at Battle Lake, grass was belly deep to a horse - so I bought here". Canada then became his home in 1930.

He divided his time after that between farming and oil field work; and there was a period when he was exceedingly busy clearing land with a big caterpillar outfit he called "Kitty". When our two brothers, their wives, and I were up there in 1964, as we drove through the country, Morley would point out field after field which he and "Kitty" had worked on.

In 1942 Morley suffered a broken back and crushed hips - an oil rig accident - he wore a body cast for 5 months; thought he would never be able to work again. This injury was later to be the cause of the very crippling arthritis he endured for years.

He loved this country. He was visionary enough to see a great future here for anyone who was willing to work, and work with the faith of a true believer.

Morley donated a piece of land on Battle Lake to the Girl Guides of Alberta.

I am very pleased, and I'm sure that the rest of the family will be, too, that the Girl Guides refer to this as WILLIAMS WILDERNESS. It is a very nice Memorial to Morley.

He passed away in Wetaskiwin December 10, 1971. Before he died he had willed his body to the University Hospital. A memorial service was held for him at Battle Lake Church.

Written by Morley Williams and Louise Williams.

Shriners Hospitals (FOR) Crippled Children

This is to certify that Illustrious Voble

Morley Williams

of Mr. Aghas Temple, Calgary, Alberta
having complied with the By Laws of the
Imperial Council N.A.O. V.M.S. is hereby proclaimed a
Permanent Contributing Member

to the maintenance fund of the

Shriners Hospitals for Crippled Children

and is thereby exempt from future hospital dues

IMPERIAL POTENTATE

IMPERIAL RECORDER

ROBERT (BOB) WILLOWS

I came to the Pendryl District on April 16, 1921 along with my Mother, brother Jim and sister Tress. We came from Wetaskiwin where I was born in December 1917.

I remember as we were travelling across country by wagon and team, I could reach out from the wagon box and touch the water as we crossed the creeks, my passenger seat was a dishpan on top of the load of our belongings.

Brothers Frank and Jack were staying with an Aunt in Manitoba. They came out to be with us in 1923.

We lived in a log house on the SE 31-45-4-W5 until 1925 then moved to the NW 31-45-4-W5 until the spring of 1928. It was then we moved to the NW 6-46-4-W5 which my mother homesteaded and is still my home.

Dad had polio and was confined to a wheelchair and stayed with his brother at Dornlee. I never did see my dad walk. From time to time, he would come to visit us on the homestead with his horse and buggy. When he fed his horse, Dolly, he would pour oats on the ground in front of the buggy and then back up old Dolly so she could eat her grain. Dad passed away in 1926.

In 1924, I started school at Pendryl which was open only four months of the year but in 1925 they had school from September to June. Mrs. Anna Taylor was my first teacher.

I remember once when I was a little fellow, Mother was churning butter with a barrel type butter churn. She went out to check on the chickens and I climbed on the churn to look out the window. Over went the churn and spilled all the cream. The butter which was being made was the grocery money for the week.

Mother passed away in November 1932 and I was too young to look after the homestead so went to live at Didsbury with Brother Jim for a while, then with Tress and Jack at Eagle Hill until 1936 when I returned to the Pendryl area where I worked in sawmills and logging camps one of which was Emile Letourneau's.



Bob & Isabell Willows -
1950's.

In the fall of the year, I would go south to work on threshing outfits and in November 1942 I married Isabell Steel of Drumheller. We returned to this area and worked in sawmills at Norbuck and Alberta Box.

On May 30, 1944 our daughter, Beverly, was born at Drumheller. She is now married to Don Siegel and lives on the family farm at Buck Lake. They have three daughters, Heather 7, Tammy 4 and Colleen 3 and one son Richard born in 1972.

On April 26, 1946 Ronald Robert was born at Drumheller. He is now married to Irene Schenk, R. N. of Rocky Mountain House and they have one son, Robert Lorne born September 7, 1971. They own and farm the SW 18-46 5-W5 and the west quarter adjoining formerly owned by Hector Letourneau, then

Mrs. Sadie Barr.

In 1953, due to a back injury, I had to leave the sawmills and I came farming on the home place where we live now.

On February 29, 1956 Danny John was born at Rimbey. At present he is attending school in Winfield.

In 1956 we bought the NE 1-46-5-W5 from Harold Madden.

Many changes have taken place since I first came to this district, greatly improved road conditions, many, many more cultivated acres and a very progressive community which we are proud to live in.

Other members of the Willows family are - Nettie, now retired and living in Calgary, Helen - deceased, Fairy - resides in Calgary and still teaching, in the early years she taught at Buck Lake and Maywood, Lillian and Tress reside in Calgary and are nursing there. Jack farms at Hoadley.

FRANK WILLOWS

Frank's Mother, Mrs. John Willows, came to the district from Wetaskiwin in 1921 with her three children: Jim, Bob and Tressie, and homesteaded land NE $\frac{1}{4}$ 6-46-4-W5. Two sons, Jack and Frank, who made their home with an aunt in Manitoba arrived here a year later and they all lived on SE $\frac{1}{4}$ 31-45-4-W5 for two or three years. Mr. John Willows was a



Standing: Left to right: Marguerite Willows, Norman Willows, Posy Willows, David Willows, Dianne Willows, Bob Willows, Mr. Wm. Curey. Sitting: Manley Peterson, Beverly Willows, Frank Willows, Ronald Willows, Danny John Willows. Approximately 1958.

wheelchair patient, living with his daughters - Helen, Fairy, Nettie and Lilian (in Wetaskiwin) and only came here on occasional visits.

Fairy, having finished her education, came and taught school at Maywood either in 1923 or 1924, and at Buck Lake the following year.

Frank and Posy were married in 1936. There are four children - David married Winnie Kilian and is now farming in the district with his family of three children. Marguerite: married Ralph Meyers and is living in Edmonton. Dianne: married Robert Pickup and is living at Courcellette, Ontario with five children. Linda: married Tommy Bjur and they make their home at You-Bou B. C.

Emil Letourneau moved in a mill. Frank was hired as first local man on crew for Mr. Emil Letourneau and his job was millwright. Others on this first crew were Hector Letourneau Sr., Philip Prefontaine and Emil Letourneau. The mill and living quarters were on the old Weaver place.

Jack was contractor of many logs in the following years and Frank continued as millwright for Van Peterson, with farming operation in between, later school bus

driver. Posy well remembers that every Sunday he was kept busy shoeing horses used in the mill. He received \$1.00 per horse, shod all the way around.

Wages were 15¢ per hour for a 10 hour day. 7¢ was taken off for board, 10¢ for compensation, 75¢ for Sunday board leaving a grand total of 52¢.

In the 1945 to 1947 years, they picked potatoes at Scotty Donald's, Cleve Dewars and Lou Hendrigan's. They were dug with a digger, then picked up by hand and put through a mechanical grader. Dick Clemmer owned the tractor that pulled the digger. This took place just after the war.

Written 1971.

JIM WILLOWS FAMILY

In 1921, Jim Willows came to the Pendryl district. With him were his mother, brother Bob and sister Tressie. As his father was an invalid, the task of being man of the family fell to Jim.

At fourteen he drove the wagon loaded with household effects over the Hoadley Hills from Bluffton to Pendryl. The trail was swampy, hilly and had numerous stumps to straddle. One creek they forded was so deep, Jim recalls, that little Bob sat in a dishpan on the load and played in the water.

When they arrived, they settled on SE 31-45-4-W5. It was on the 16th of April and the grass was already a few inches high. No wonder several homesteaders thought this ideal horse country and brought a large herd of horses out. However, when winter came, the snow was so deep many horses scattered and died.

Jim went for a short time to Maywood School. As he went by horse back, and had to pass through many homesteader's pastures, he will always remember the great many gates he had to open and close.

The Berg and Bjur children went to Maywood also at that time.

The first winter here, Jim spent hauling freight for Sam Weaver, who had a small store. It took one week to make a trip to Wetaskiwin and back. For this he received ten dollars a month.

Horseback was mostly the method of transportation the young people used. One cold day Jim was out riding and stopped to warm up at a neighbour's. Hoping to speed up the process, the fellow gave Jim a cup of his home concoction. The result was fourteen year old Jim was out like a light and the poor man, thinking he had killed Jim, hurriedly called a neighbour for help. After a good sleep, Jim went on his way.

In 1922, what bit of crop the homesteaders put in was quite good. Jim remembered the Rev. Ellis flailing twenty acres of grain for \$1.50 a day. Rev. Ellis made his home at Buck Lake and was a travelling minister for all the settlers. His two grandsons still live

at Breton, Alberta.

When the first threshing machine came to the country, Jim carried the grain by pails from it to the barn.

Jim hauled lumber from north of Buck Lake to Hoadley for Mr. A. Burrows in 1925. He drove six horses and made three trips a week.

One day another fellow and Jim started out at 6 a.m. with a load each, when one load broke down all twelve horses were put on the one load. It began to blizzard but they continued on, to arrive at Hoadley at 2 a.m. next morning. This would seem hard work for a boy of seventeen who only weighed eighty-seven pounds, but Jim has only pleasant memories of those early years.



Jim Willow's first house.

The summers were spent working on the railroad or any other job available.

Mrs. Willows made butter which was sold to Weaver's store and also grew a large garden as did all the pioneer women. The winter supply of food depended on canned vegetables and wild berries.

Jim filed on his own homestead in 1928, NE 2-46-5-W5. After putting up a cabin he went out working. When he returned it had been hauled away and was never found.

In the spring of 1929 Jim left and went to Tees to work. In October 1929 Jim attended O.S.A. where he met Mabel Sparks of Rosetown, Sask. While at the college Mabel received first prize in cooking. Jim and Mabel were married in July 1930 and went to live at Didsbury. Jack and Norman were born at Didsbury and baby Mabel in Edmonton. In 1936 Jim and family returned to Pendryl and purchased his present farm for five hundred dollars.

There were many interesting incidents Jim recalled from those early years.

One time a man had a severe attack of appendicitis. He walked to Wetaskiwin, had his operation and in several weeks came home again.

For enjoyment there were always the country dances. One occasion a dance was held at Frank Heighington's mill. The room had studdings through the centre, and as some of the folks were a little on the husky side, every other studding was taken out. They danced all night, had breakfast, then went home.

Sunday was visiting day. No one ever spent it alone. All work stopped as horses were hitched to buggys or sleighs, depending on the season. In those days no one waited for an invitation, they knew they would be welcomed.

Even strangers passing, knew the code of the homesteader, "I'll be glad to help." "Just pass it on to someone else who needs it".

Some styles have returned from those early days. The maxi coat and high boots were worn in style fifty years ago.

There were weeks when the settlers did not get news from the outside. There were no radios.

Jim recalled the friendliness of the homesteaders and the ready helping hand.

Jim's wife, Mabel, passed away in 1946. Their son, Jack passed away in 1963 leaving a wife and three children.

Norman and Sandra make their home at Fort St. John with their three children. Mabel and son live in Calgary.

Jim and wife, Dorothea, live on the old farm in retirement.

WINFIELD RURAL MUTUAL TELEPHONE CO.

In the spring of 1961, the people of the Winfield area decided to put in a rural telephone system. The first step was to get as many people as possible interested in signing up for it. Mrs. Eileen Dunn did most of the groundwork of getting started, then a committee of several people was chosen. These were Leo Cartier, Roy Berg, Don Day (president), Martin Betlamini, Ken Stone, Mel Jones, Scotty Donald and Mrs. Eileen Dunn as secretary-treasurer. There were seven party lines and each committee member represented the party line on his area. There were about 63 subscribers.

During the winter of 1962, clearing was done for the telephone lines and work progressed very quickly so that by July 1962, the lines were completed and were put into operation. After the telephones were in service a few more families subscribed as time went on.

When Mrs. Dunn, Leo Cartier and Ken Stone moved away from the district, the

following took their place on the committee. Mrs. Molly Hawkins as secretary-treasurer, Harold Kluczny and Lorne Cripps.

This mutual operated until Dec. 17, 1967, when Alberta Government Telephones took the service over with an underground telephone system. The mutual lines and telephones were then taken down and sold. Having telephone service marked the end of isolation for many people of the area.

WINFIELD - HOW IT WAS NAMED AND SOME HIGHLIGHTS OF THE EARLY YEARS.

Winfield was named after or in honor of the Hon. Vernor Winfield Smith and my father, Alexander Winfield Scott. Mr. Smith was Minister of Railways and Telephones in the U.F.A. Government when the railway was being extended - 1922.

The L. & N.W. Railway presently owned and operated by C.P. Rail, originated somewhat in this way. Fifteen men, five from Bentley, five from Rimbey and five from Lacombe, formed a company under the name of the Lacombe and North-Western Railway Co. and secured a guarantee from the Alberta Government in 1909 of \$300,000.00 and proceeded to build a narrow gauge railway from Lacombe to Rimbey (just a farmer's outlet for their products).

The line was constructed, I believe, entirely by horse equipment. I do not recall just when the railway went into operation, but by 1916 the Company was bankrupt. The Alberta Government paid off the liabilities and took over the assets. The line was extended to Hoadley in 1922 by the U.F.A. Government.

It was at this time that the widespread call came for it's completion to Edmonton. Mr. Douglas C. Breton and my father, Winfield Scott, provided leadership in bringing pressure on the Government to extend the line. The Provincial Government had more demands for railway and other expansion than there was money to carryout, so development was slow.

Mr. Breton was elected to the Alberta legislature in 1926 and proved most helpful in influencing the Government in completing the project until the line was sold to the Canadian Pacific. At that time the line was completed to Breton, the Village named after Mr. Breton. Mr. Smith approached my father to know if he would approve of your community being named jointly after himself and my father in this way. My father said he would be most happy to share the honor with the Hon. Minister of Railways & Telephones of Alberta. That is the long and the short of it.

I trust that this long winded epistle will provide you with some general information as well as the origin of the name Winfield.

Yours very truly,
"C. Winfield Scott".

Clipping from Wetaskiwin Times

Down through the following years, Winfield was the center point of the lumbering industry, as box cars were loaded with lumber and shipped by rail to distant places as the many saw mills in the district supplied the lumber.

The first saw mill in the district was owned and operated by S. E. Nelson in 1914. He first sawed some timber on his own homestead east of Winfield, later moving to other localities to continue in the saw mill business for many years.

Drader held the timber berth about a half a mile south of Winfield around 1918. About two years later, Carrol Brothers set up a saw mill near the Twin Lakes, moving to the Winfield locality in the fall of 1928. Carrol's operated the sawmill and planing mill till they moved to B. C. in 1958. Alberta Box Co. were here at this time. Bear Creek cut a timber berth four miles east of Winfield from 1920 to 1924, later moving to Buck Lake. At this time many sawmills were in operation, among them were the Vicens, Tompkins, Burrows and Frasers.

Etter-McDougal's planer mill moved to the quarter section a half mile south of Winfield from Fernie, B. C. in 1932. They held the largest holdings of timber of all the local mills, most of it many miles west of Winfield, where the timber was sawed into rough lumber and trucked to the planer mill in Winfield, there it was dressed and shipped out by rail or by truck. They dissolved business and had an auction sale in October 1952.

In 1926, I. O. Gibbons started the first store and post office in Winfield. Mr. Gibbons bought the building that had been used for a store-house for the railroad during the time it was being built, and was owned by Fred Manix Company. This building was situated near the

railroad trestle. Mr. Gibbons took the building apart and rebuilt it where Hunter's (Beatty's) store now stands, as a general store and post office.

The building and contents burned down March 20, 1930. Later the same year the store was rebuilt on the same lot.

Mrs. (Stella) Sabin took over the business on her father's death in 1934. Mrs. Sabin sold out the business to Ed Hunter in 1953, when she retired after serving the public for many years.

In 1927, Mr. and Mrs. Groulx moved from Hoadley to Winfield, by team and wagon, a bag of flour and \$5.00 cash to start up the first blacksmith shop in Winfield. Mrs. Groulx started the first cafe, and also had a few rooms to rent for overnight guests.

When Groulx's retired and moved out, this building had changed hands several times. When it burned down on January 20, 1946, it was known as Owrie's Cafe and M. Harmacy's poolroom.

In the autumn of 1946, John Harmacy had rebuilt on the same lot and moved into what was known as the Winfield Red and White Store. In 1964, his son, Alvin, operates a hardware store in the same building, known as the Sunset Store.

The large rooming house was built by Charlie Stady in 1927. Later an addition was built for more rooms to accommodate the mill workers. This building was torn down in the summer of 1960 at the time owned by John Fredrickson.

The corner building known as Engler's hardware store, started out as Dinty's Pool Hall and barber shop, built and operated by Delmar Wing in 1927. Two years later, in 1929, Alfred Engler and Mike Taylor bought out the property and business. Mike Taylor operated the barber shop, while Alfred Engler built and operated a machine repair shop at the back of the lot for a number of years.

When the two men dissolved the partnership, the pool hall was gradually converted into a well stocked hardware store. Alfred retired from working in the machine shop and spent all his time looking after the hardware business, until his sudden passing away, July 11, 1964.

Mrs. Cora Bendix was the first owner of the Winfield Hotel built in 1934. She also organized the Catholic Ladies Aid in Winfield.

In 1930 Mrs. Anna Taylor taught school in Winfield when the school house was situated west of the railroad trestle. She taught at Pendryl and Maywood also. A few years later, Mrs. Taylor gave up teaching to go into the laundry business while her husband, Mike, repaired shoes for a number of years. She then moved to Wetaskiwin and taught school again until her retirement.

Mr. Forshner built the first garage, that changed hands when Bert Woodbridge traded his truck for the garage building and lot. The building burned down in the block fire of 1942, and was rebuilt the same year.

Alfred Johansson came to Winfield in 1930. He was foreman of the section crews on the railroad until his retirement in 1965, when he retired to Vancouver, B. C.

Husband's started their general merchants store by renting Harsch's hall till they built their store in 1931.

Block fire destroyed their business and home in 1942. The family moved their few possessions saved from the fire into Nadeau's house, till they had time to rebuild the store and carry on business as usual. Later, Husband's bought out Roy Gibbons house and lot for their living quarters.

Mrs. John (Lenore) Olson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Husband, spent eight years alternating with her father in operating the business and for sixteen years looking after the business on her own. Retiring to the farm in December 1960.

In 1927, Sid Carter built a cafe and had a few rooms upstairs to rent.

Roy Gibbons moved to Winfield in the fall of 1927, and built a feed and livery stable on the lot just west of Harmacy's store. Later in 1929, he built the hardware store on the lot just east of the general store. In the spring of 1930, a fire burned the General store and one side out of the Hardware store. Approximately a year later, a fire burned the cafe and took his store and living quarters. A year or so later, Roy built a pool hall on the same lot where he had the store and then sold the lot and building to John Harmacy. In the meantime, Roy was the dray man for Winfield for a number of years.

Mr. and Mrs. P. Ginther, sold out their farm and equipment and moved into Winfield to start the first butcher shop business, in a little one roomed shack, where they did the big business of selling one beef a month over the counter to the residents of Winfield.

On March 11, 1944, they sold out a thriving butcher business to the present owner,

Pete Wald.

The following year, Mr. Ginther built a feed store on the opposite side of the street. This he operated for a few years, then retired from business.

The White Rose garage was built by Don Gouchee in the fall of 1939, later was taken over by Jack Bystrum and Jack Handbury. Now operated by A. C. Hengle since the fall of 1941.

Ben Harsch was the first man to operate the grain elevator that was built in 1932. Six or seven years later the elevator was taken down and moved away. In 1932, Ben Harsch opened a bakery in Winfield, later on remodeling the building into a rooming house and restaurant. He sold out the business to Joe Walters in 1939.

In 1930, Mr. and Mrs. John Thrasher and children, Olive, Nellie and Johnnie, moved from Edmonton, riding on the back of a truck, on top of their belongings over rough country roads. When the family arrived in Winfield, all tired and covered with dust, it was a rare treat for the family to clean up and have supper with Mr. and Mrs. Mike Taylor and Murray. Then they stayed over the night with Mr. and Mrs. Groulx. The next day, completing their journey to the homestead south east of Winfield.

In 1931, John Thrasher taught school in a log shack on his own quarter of land. The Society School was later moved near the highway.

Due to the spring breakup the 12th of April, 1935, roads were impassable. Mrs. Armitage was rushed to the Rimbey Hospital on a railroad speeder, but even the speeder could not outrun the storm, and reach the hospital in time, so their baby, Joane, was born 12 miles out of Rimbey, on the speeder with her husband and Mr. Alfred Johansson attending the birth. All survived the ordeal.

Another time, the train was stopped at Hoadley where Carole Patricia Russell, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Roland Russell was born in the station house.

The present Hotel was built in 1933. The grand opening was held on New Years day 1934. The proprietor was Ben Bendick.

Across the street, Mrs. Owrie had their restaurant. After this caught fire and burned down in 1945, the Owrie's lost everything they had, so they started up a restaurant in the new hotel.

The old Palace Cafe, owned by Joe Mah Jim, was sold to Joe Walters after the block fire.

The spring of 1937 was very dry. Many bush fires in the Winfield district. Owners of sawmills were especially uneasy for flying sparks could ignite anywhere in the bush some distance away from the main fire.

The story is told about the big fire at Burrow's mill that had spread between Antross and Norbuck, sweeping into Anthony's mill. The engineer, Dolos Linton, trying to save his household furniture, placed his mattresses at the bottom of an old dry well, and lowering his furniture, piece by piece on top of the mattress to protect them from the fire. He then rushed away from the fire area for his own safety.

Later, after the fires had passed by, Mr. Linton returned to the mill and discovered his house still standing, untouched by the fire. The days that followed were busy ones for him, as he had great difficulty in removing his furniture out of the well.

The Maccabee Lodge, No. 9 was organized in Winfield, August 1939, with twenty members. Afterwards climbing to sixty members. Many of the families have moved away over the years, as work took them to other places but the lodge has still carried on.

The Winfield Lodge purchased the Community Hall in 1940, and has the honor of being the only Maccabee group in Alberta who owned their own hall at that time. Disbanded and sold to Winfield Lions Club.

The St. George's Anglican Church was built in 1939. First pastor was Rev. George Macky. The Catholic Church was built about the same time. Father Dillon and Father Curtis were the first priests in the church.

Services of the Covenant Mission Church and the Sunday school had their beginning in Winfield by holding their meetings in Pete Langmo's garage, with Pastor Dalbert Davidson in charge.

The \$50,000.00 tragic Winfield fire of August 8, 1942 started in Joe Walters cafe at 4:30 a.m., first discovered by a Chinese cook, Joe Sin. The fire quickly spread and the buildings lost in the fire were: The Union Cafe, owned by Joe Walters, The Winfield Theatre owned by H. E. Mickelberry, J. A. Woodbridge's blacksmith shop, R. W. Husband's general store and living quarters, A. C. Engler's machine shop, and J. A. Woodridge's service garage. The most tragic of it all was the loss of two lives. Pete Hrycyzen, about 38 years old,

and was a timber piler at D. R. Fraser's camp at Fraspur; and Hugh Hastings, about 60 years of age, was an employee of the Alberta Box factory at Winfield.

The only building left standing on that block was the corner building, Engler's Hardware store. It is believed the building was saved by the heroic efforts of the volunteer bucket brigade, that poured water continually over the sides and roof of the building. Nearly all the merchandise had been removed from the building and scattered across the road from the fire.

By evening, the fire was under control, then began the wearisome task of gathering up all the scattered merchandise and placing it back on the shelves again.

On taking inventory, it was surprising there was very little found broken or missing, in spite of all the people milling about in the excitement of the fire, about 500 on the fire brigade alone.

June 14, 15, 16 of 1944, Winfield was without train service or mail, due to the heavy rains the railroad bridges were all washed out.

At another time, in order to attend a school meeting, John Harmacy, who was on the school board, had to drive his car on the railroad track over the trestle south of Breton, as the road was impassable. The meeting was held in Thorsby, John made it to the school board meeting - Perseverance won.

The Winfield Ladies Community Club was first organized at the home of Mrs. Carl Samuelson on July 18, 1945. Under the name of Ladies Social Club with an enrollment of eight members.

The officers elected at the meeting to take care of the business were: Mrs. Lily Graham, president; Mrs. Lottie Clemmer, first vice president; Mrs. Mabel Samuelson, second Vice president; Mrs. Eunice Platz, secretary-treasurer. The other members were: Mrs. Harriet Nylen, Mrs. Margaret Skogman, Mrs. Violet Martin and Mrs. Blanche Johnson.

Six months later, the name of the club was changed to the present name of Winfield Ladies Community Club. By the end of the same year, there were thirty-six paid up members.

Later, Mrs. Samuelson was elected by acclamation for president. The office she held till her death in June 1953.

The club were the instigators for acquiring many years of nursing services, also once a week doctor's services in Winfield. The establishment of Mount Clair cemetery in 1947. (Clair being the middle name of the founder Mrs. Samuelson). The club has helped with disasters and needy people in the community, to name only a few of it's accomplishments.

History Highlights of the Winfield Ladies Community Club

On February 1946, the Club worked on the possibilities of acquiring a hospital and a district nurse for Winfield and district, committees were formed to work on these projects, resulting in a nurse being established and living in a cottage in Winfield and giving of her services to the people of the district for a number of years. The hospital committee were not as successful in establishing a local hospital. The committee then put their energies to work for doctor's services in Winfield, with better results.

The first doctor's office was located in an upstairs room over Harmacy's grocery store and pool hall. It was furnished and the upkeep looked after by the club members.

In September 1951, Dr. Bell and Dr. Boorman of Rimbey agreed to come to Winfield on Tuesday afternoon of every week. When Dr. Bell moved away, Dr. Cable took over, to come on alternate Tuesdays with Dr. Boorman.

The club meetings were held in different homes till the membership became too large for the homes to accommodate them, so it was arranged to hold the meetings and activities of the Club in the Winfield Maccabee Hall. In 1952 a building was purchased and moved to it's present location where the Club members meet and hold their monthly meetings. This building was also known as the Doctor's office.

The largest undertaking of the Winfield Ladies Community Club is the sponsoring of the Mount Clair cemetery, named for it's founder, Mabel Clair Samuelson (her middle name being Clair), when in 1947 she brought before the members of the Club the necessity of a cemetery in Winfield. She was put on the committee to purchase the land. This she accomplished and the upkeep of the cemetery is still the main concern of the club.

The Club also helps in other community projects, and all work together to help any-

one in need, such as burned out families, poverty and illness.

From a small beginning, the Club has given over 20 years of service to the Winfield Community and it's members are proud to be a part of it.

THE WINFIELD CLARION - born April 1955

Bill Russell, a grade nine student at the Winfield School submitted the name that was selected the most suitable for the new Winfield Section of the Rimbey Record. This will include coverage of the areas Winfield, Buck Lake, Alder Flats, Battle Lake, Yeoford and all points in between. Bill received a new Zipper ring binder and his classroom received an electric wall clock.

WINFIELD

Newspaper clipping (copy) approximately 1937.

Heading LUMBER INDUSTRY AIDS WINFIELD

District Also Discovered Good Mixed Farming Area

* * * * *

Numerous Mills Supported by Fine Stands of Timber;

District Also Produces Large Amount of
Grain and Livestock

About Midway on the Leduc-Lacombe branch of the Canadian Pacific Railway and 55 miles west of Wetaksiwin lies the busy lumbering and farming centre of Winfield. Named in honor of Winfield Scott, an old timer, the town owes its considerable growth of the last five or six years to the extensive lumbering operations carried on in the vicinity.

Years ago, before the railroad was built and before there was a Winfield, early pioneers braved the lonely life and hardships of this western wilderness. With hard work and plenty of patience, most of these pioneers transformed their bush homesteads into profitable farms that yielded a comfortable living. Some, however, became discouraged when they found that making a farm out of a homestead in this locality was a job that required a particularly strong back and left the district before proving up their homesteads. Those who stuck and grubbed out the stumps were in due time well pleased with results.

Some of the homesteaders, with an eye to the main chance, were not slow to realize that the timber on their land was worth more than the land itself. It followed that saw mills were soon at work manufacturing lumber from this fine spruce timber. With timber berths easy to obtain in those days, the expansion of this industry was a foregone conclusion.

Of the pioneer lumbermen who first began operations in the district, the firms of Sanford Nelson and Carroll Brothers are still doing business. Employing 200 men, Carroll Brothers has a large planer mill near Winfield to which rough lumber is hauled by trucks, for completion and shipment, from their several sawmills located over the district. With several lumber camps, a sawmill 25 miles west, and a planing mill near Winfield, the Etter-McDougall Sawmills, Ltd. operate in a big way, giving employment to 350 men.

Other District Leaders

Other district leaders in the industry are William Anthony, Hales H. Ross, D. R. Fraser, A. J. Burrows, and A. E. Drader. Besides these there are a score or more of smaller operators over the district from Winfield to Breton. More recent developments include the district sawmill of the Alberta Box company factory and the box factory of Mickelberry Brothers at Winfield.

These various lumber operations, involving the employment of about 2,000 workers, make Winfield one of the largest lumbering districts in the province. It is said that no other Alberta district has as large a concentration of mills as the area from Winfield to Antross.

Though lumbering has brought Winfield more and more into the public eye, nevertheless the district has excellent possibilities for mixed farming. With proper tillage, good crops can be grown of wheat, oats, peas, clover and alsike seed. A case in point is the achievement of Lou Hendrigan who operates four miles west of town, a sub-experimental

station that has already been of great benefit to the district.

Last year, Mr. Hendrigan won third place in the field pea class at the Chicago International stock and grain show. The land that he farms was once covered with heavy timber. They say that the more this former timber land is farmed the better the soil becomes. The crops and gardens attest its fertility.

Furthermore, cattle are being raised and the hog industry has already reached considerable proportions. According to A. C. Engler, buyer and shipper, 3,000 hogs a year are now marketed out of the Winfield area.

The pioneer settlers of Winfield had to haul their supplies of groceries and other necessities from Wetaskiwin. There were no surveyed roads in those days, so the pioneers built a road themselves. It extended as far west as the "Buck Lake trail". It was used for years before better roads were built.

Gibbons Postmaster

The mail was also brought in from Wetaskiwin. The first postmaster (also first general merchant) was I. O. Gibbons, whose business, situated some distance from the present townsite, was later moved into the new town. On the death of Mr. Gibbons, his daughter, Mrs. S. Sabin, took over the store; and today, remodeled and improved, it is operated by her and her son, Clayton, under the firm name of S. and C. Sabin.

In a business way, Winfield has gone ahead by leaps and bounds. Besides the one already mentioned, other excellent business concerns are the general stores of R. W. Husband and J. P. Harmacy, Winfield drug store, Winfield hardware, Winfield hotel, three garages, three cafes, bakery, two meat markets, coffee shop, barber shop, shoe and harness shops, blacksmith shops, weekly paper, theatre, laundry and carpenter shop.

J. A. Woodbridge, who owns and operates the Winfield garage, was one of the early businessmen of the town. On his arrival he purchased what was then the only local garage. Through rebuilding, remodeling and installing up-to-date equipment it has been transformed into a first-class modern establishment.

Not many towns have had an electric light and power service from the start to compare with that of Winfield. It was commenced in 1929 and has continuously been operated by J. A. Woodbridge from his garage.

With a present population of around 300, Winfield continues to grow. Two years ago four extra blocks were surveyed for an addition to the original townsite. Quite a number of new houses have been erected.

For years church services at Winfield were held in private homes. Now there are two churches - Anglican and Catholic, both active and well supported.

Grade, High Schools

Educational needs are met by public grade and high schools. The latter was started last year and has been using the Maccabees hall as a classroom. In connection with the high school an orchestra has been organized.

Other features of community life are the Winfield Dramatic club, physical training classes for women, the university traveling library and Cartier's orchestra.

Winfield's fraternal organization is a lodge of the Maccabees started about two years ago and now having a good membership who devote efforts to general community betterment. They have a fine hall of their own.

The Winfield and community board of trade, only three years old, has a membership of about 75. The board is active and progressive. One project it has worked for is the graveling of the road from Winfield to Leduc on the Edmonton-Calgary highway. The alternative would be gravel from Winfield to Pigeon Lake, thence to connect with Wetaskiwin.

At Winfield, sports activities are promoted by the Athletic club. Baseball, skating and hockey are the popular pursuits. The local boys participate in the Timber Hockey league. A number of lakes that afford good fishing dot the district. Big game hunting may be had within 30 miles of the town.

Winfield enjoys daily train and bus services and offers the travelling public first-class accommodation in hotel, cafes and rooming houses. With its goodly array of business concerns, its proximity to such summer resorts as Buck and Pigeon lakes, its industrial and farming activities and optimistic citizens, Winfield is well on the way to becoming one of central Alberta's best communities.

Winfield has long felt urgent need of a resident medical practitioner, the nearest

doctor having been at Rimbey, 28 miles away.

JOHN P. HARMACY Red and White Store

In the five years of his operations at Winfield, John P. Harmacy has taken a leading position in commercial and community affairs. His store is one of the best on the line and, like all other Red & White stores, it is regarded as a safe and sound trading place by the consumer who appreciates quality at lowest possible prices plus modern service. The grocery, flour and feed department is amply stocked. Other lines handled are ladies' ready-to-wear, general dry goods, boots and shoes. Mr. Harmacy, who is himself a radio technician, repairs and services radios, is a local dealer for Spartan and Phonolas and carries one of the largest stocks of radio tubes west of the main line. Another part of the business is the billiard hall at the rear. Mr. Harmacy is a commissioner for oaths and secretary of the board of trade.

WINFIELD HARDWARE A.C. Engler, Prop.

This store has been one of Winfield's leading business units since 1930 and continues to enjoy a substantial measure of trade from all over the district. For all the needs of town and country people these stocks of shelf and heavy hardware, paints, oil, glass, sporting and electrical goods, crockery, etc., are fully adequate. Special lines handled include Marshall Wells paints, DeForest and Addison radios and Spencer stoves. Mr. Engler is the town's handy man whose ability to repair anything from a needle to a steam engine adds to his business popularity. In addition to operating his hardware Mr. Engler is local Gillespie agent handling that firm's flour and other products. He also has been hog buyer for the Blindman Valley Co-op.

PALACE CAFE AND ROOMS

If a well-kept place, courteous service and good food are the main essentials of a satisfactory cafe, then the Palace Cafe at Winfield deserves your attention, because it possesses all of these qualifications. Laid out with booths and lunch counter and equipped with modern refrigeration and sanitary kitchen, it can handle many guests at one time and takes pleasure in meeting their wishes as to any special dish not on the regular menu.

Only quality meats and other provisions are purchased and an experienced chef prepares the meals which are O.K. both as to quality and quantity. Ice cream, soft drinks, confectionery, and tobaccos are sold and there are clean, comfortable rooms to let. Mah Jim, of the Palace, has been a Winfield resident for years and enjoys much popularity.

WINFIELD DRUG STORE H. L. Armitage, Prop.

In every town and district most valuable services are rendered by the drug store and mostly it ranks among the leading business places. In all respects, this holds good for H. L. Armitage's Drug Store at Winfield, a modern one with a fine record of covering a period of some six years. Here one finds an excellent stock of all the customary lines - pure drugs, patents, toiletries, sick room supplies, school books, kodaks, etc. Prompt and accurate service characterizes the compounding of doctors' prescriptions. This is a Rexall Store.

UNION CAFE AND BAKERY

No visit to the town is complete without a look in at the Union bakery, cafe and confectionery, a place where no expense has been spared in making it "tops" for satisfaction and comfort. The Union Cafe is nicely fixed up, has booths and tables and makes a most attractive rendezvous. Then, there is a modernly appointed lunch counter and a store displaying an excellent line of the firm's baked goods, plus confectionery of all kinds, fruits and tobaccos, light lunches, tea or coffee, soft drinks and ice creams are served at any time. Pleasant surroundings, fine service, the best of everything - what more could be asked for? Nice

clean rooms in connection. Joe Walters, proprietor, has many friends in this part of the country.

WINFIELD CAFE AND ROOMS

One need never be out of luck for a good meal or a clean room when in Winfield for such accommodation is provided at the Winfield Cafe operated for the last seven years by A. Samuel. The cafe provides a 24 hour service, and, if you want a room, it's a good idea to apply early, for this is a popular house and the only white cafe in town. It is equipped with booths, lunch counter and sitting room. Good heat and light, comfortable beds and courteous service by smart waitresses ensure excellent service. Ice cream, confectionery, home-made pastry and cakes, soft drinks and tobaccos are on hand. The culinary department is personally supervised by Mrs. A. Samuel.

WINFIELD GARAGE J.A. Woodbridge. Prop.

Complete personalized service, both quick and efficient, is rendered on all makes of cars at the big modern garage of J. A. Woodbridge at Winfield where he has been established for about 12 years. The mechanics and working facilities are such to ensure satisfaction, no matter what the trouble is; and, in particular, if you want improved performance and more gas mileage, have them give the car a motor tune-up. As the facilities include acetylene and portable electric welding outfits, lathe, valve repair, cylinder boring apparatus, etc., there is no better equipped garage west of the C.P.R. main line. It is steamheated, has storage capacity for 25 cars and gives a 24 hour service. At times a staff of nine employees is required. Imperial Oil products, Goodyear tires and general accessories are handled. The selling of I.H.C. implements, and the operation of a blacksmith shop and the supplying of the town's electric light and power are other features that have helped to make this garage a busy centre of activity.

S. AND C. SABIN General Merchants

A firm that appreciates the district trade and aims to give customers the best of service is the well established business of S. and C. Sabin at Winfield, operated by Mrs. Sabin and son Clayton. It is concerns like this that draw business to a town and make it a shopping centre, and as taxpayers and supporters of local progress, they are entitled to a full measure of local patronage. This firm continues to enjoy a good business from both village and district and it is merited on account of their big stocks and fair dealing. They have a grocery stock of fresh goods and cured meats at right prices. They also sell dry goods, clothing and furnishings, boots and shoes, household hardware and other lines. This is the town's pioneer store, established by the late I. O. Gibbons.

WINFIELD HOTEL

With so much logging and sawmill activity in the vicinity of Winfield, a hotel has a fine opportunity for service at this point. The opportunity is enjoyed by the Winfield Hotel which leaves no stone unturned to meet all local and transient needs. Throughout, the hotel is a model of up-to-date equipment in beds and furniture, good lighting, good order and cleanliness. Particular mention deserves to be made of the excellent meals and service of the dining room. Further improvements are the enlargement of the beverage rooms for the public through the erection of another building as private residence for the owner and his family. H. A. Bendick and assistants have always given real hotel service. The rates are very moderate. The hotel is Sunburst Bus depot.

R.W. HUSBAND General Merchant

An excellent line of merchandise which is sold at only a reasonable margin of profit coupled with willing service and square dealing, has gained for the store of R. W. Husband at Winfield a large measure of popularity and prestige. Quality, wide selection and good value abound and every effort is made to please and satisfy the customers. Specializing in

ladies' and gents' clothing, boots and shoes, fancy goods, china, glassware, etc., Mr. Husband is pleased to welcome district people or visitors and feels sure that inspection of his up-to-date stocks will make anyone realize that buying in the home town can be done as cheaply and advantageously as anywhere. This is not only a long-established store but also one of the best on the line.

WHITE ROSE GARAGE Jack Handbury, Jack Bystrom

Just as its name would imply, this garage is headquarters at Winfield for Canadian Oil Products for which the firm are both wholesale and retail dealers. They supply White Rose gas at the garage pumps, also sell Dominion tires and best of batteries and accessories. The garage measures up to current requirements in service and satisfaction - a fact well known to numerous local and visiting patrons. They do everything for the car, including battery recharging, tire repairing, and electric and acetylene welding, 24 hour service, towing car. "Invite us to your next blow-out".

Advertisements:

MICKELBERRY BROS
BOX FACTORY
MANUFACTURERS OF FISH BOXES,
POULTRY BOXES, EGG
CRATES
Winfield's Newest Industry
Est. 1939
Winfield, Alberta.

CARROLL BROS.
LUMBER CO
MANUFACTURERS OF
WESTERN WHITE
SPRUCE LUMBER.
Four sawmill camps in operation.
Also operating a branch of the
ROYAL LUMBER YARDS LTD.
Central planing mill at Winfield.
Retail Dealers in Lumber,
Lath, Shingles, Etc.,
Winfield, Alberta.

WALDEN SMITH - WINFIELD SCHOOL

In 1944 Florence and I moved to Winfield from Sunnybrook with our three children, Carole, Douglas and Vance. Our first home was a small teacherage situated in the old school yard on the Etter-McDeugal mill site west of the trestle.

At this time I was the Principal of a four room school which included Grades One to Eleven. Grades One to Five were taught in a two roomed school on the present school grounds by Mrs. Sarah Kryger teaching Grades One and Two and Mrs. Ann Taylor teaching Grades 3, 4 and 5. Mrs. Beulah Hinton taught Grades 6, 7 and 8 in the Maccabee Hall and I taught Grades 9, 10 and 11 in the original one roomed school situated beside the teacherage. The total school population was 74 pupils.

The students in Grade 9 at this time were, Herbert Bohning, Jean Bohning, Margaret Erb, Bruce Handbury, Ethel Johnson, Helen Kryger, Vivian Ryall, Lawrence Thalheimer and David Thomas. Dave won the Governor General's Medal for the highest marks in Grade IX in the Strathcona and Wetaskiwin School Divisions that year. The Grade ten students were Neil Hengel, John Mellon and Carol Wald. The Grade eleven students were June Grover and Lois Nelson. In 1947 Grade 12 was taught in Winfield for the first time and June and Lois were the first students.

In 1947 two rooms were added to the existing school in the present school yard and the entire school came together under one roof. The Seattle school was closed at this time and Mr. Verne Grover became the first bus driver in the area bringing the children to Winfield over almost impassable roads in a jeep.

By 1950 the school population had greatly increased and a separate two roomed high school was built on the grounds to accommodate Grades 9 to 12. In 1953 two additional rooms were added to the High School. By this time, the Poplar Valley, Spruce Hill and Pendryl Schools had closed and buses were bringing the students to Winfield.

In 1956 the school was greatly enlarged by the addition of four classrooms, a home economics room, an industrial arts centre, a gymnasium with stage and change rooms, a staff room, a modern laboratory and furnace room.

When I left in 1966 there were 335 pupils in the school and a staff of 14 teachers.

We enjoyed our 20 years in Winfield very much. The people were very friendly and formed a closely knit group especially in the early days when the roads were undependable and very few people had cars.

I am now Principal of Millet School and we make our home in Wetaskiwin. Our three children who all graduated from Winfield High School are now married. Carol married Gino Ferri, a Production Co-ordinator for a Structural Engineering firm in Edmonton and they have three children. Teresa Gail, Anita and Gina. Douglas, a heavy duty mechanic, married Vicki Pandachuk, a High School teacher in Edmonton. They have one son, Gregory. Vance, a High School teacher in Calgary, married Darlene Fowler. They have two children, Toren and Tracy.

WINFIELD SCHOOL

Some of the teachers were Mrs. Anne Taylor, 1929 - Mrs. Bernard, Mr. Vanderberg, John Thrasher Jr., John Third.

New Winfield School built by Wetaskiwin School Division #36 of which L. B. Yule - Sec. Treas., Ed M. Erickson - superintendent, Gordon Beatty on Board of Trustees for Sub - Div. #5. It had 12 classrooms, gymnasium, auditorium, Home Economics and Industrial Arts Rooms. Enrollment: Grades I to XII was 300 pupils. It opened in 1957. Attendance area served the schools of Winfield #4304, Seattle #2761, Wenham Valley #2956, Maywood #3951, Pendry #4185, Poplar Valley #4531, Norbuck #4551, Society #4631, Spruce Hill #4796.

ELVIN I. WOLD

Mr. and Mrs. Elvin I. Wold were married April 22, 1937. They had three sons born to them. Arman, born March 1938. He is a draftsman and they live in Edmonton. Arman married Gayle Kimmy of Battle Lake. They have two adopted children, a boy and a girl.

Victor, born December 1939. He married Leona Vogel of Edmonton in 1969. Victor is an Industrial Arts teacher in Leduc.

Raymond was born in 1943. He married Jane Eyre of Thorsby in 1969. Raymond is Supervisor of marketing Administration for an Insurance Company.

When we were first married we rented the Hildal farm in the Valley, now belonging to William Rathgeber. We bought the home place from E. T. Wold and lived there as well as rented the Hildal farm for six years. When the boys became school age, it meant getting somewhere where there was a school. We went into Cafe business in Breton for a year and a half. From there we moved to Battle Lake and operated the store for fourteen years. We then moved back to the farm and have lived here since.

Anna Wold

1965 - Elvin Wold family, Raymond, Victor, Arman, Anna, Elvin, Foster - children - Jean and Betty Lund.



WESTERN SWING KIDS won Search for Talent Contest in Wetaskiwin on Feb. 10, 1951. They went on to Edmonton to the semi-finals and finals. They took first in popularity and second in talent in the finals. Left to right: Victor on banjo, Arman on accordion, Jodie Freeman on piano, Raymond on drums. Raymond was unable to enter Search for Talent competition. The group of four played at many varied banquets, variety shows, dances, etc., before employment and weddings separated them. They all continue to play.

play.

E.T. WOLD

Mr. and Mrs. E. T. Wold and family arrived in the spring of 1930 to homestead on the SE 14-47-3-W5. They originally came from Minot, N.E., U.S.A. to Bow Island, moving on up to Hespero with horses. Their first home was a log house. They got their mail at Wenham Valley Post Office with Dan Nicholson owner.

They had five children, two daughters, Magda and Thelma and three sons, Elvin, Roy and Erling.

E. T. Wold cancelled the homestead previously owned by Camidge.

Magda studied to be a teacher and married Norman Anderson of Hespero in 1931.

They have two daughters, Glenda, a teacher and Margie, a music teacher.



Three Senior Wold Brothers
(Elvin, Roy, Erling) taken
in the 30's.

Thelma worked in Calgary, married Ed Long (Ed has been deceased for many years). They had five children, Laurence, Eddie (died at sixteen years of age), Thelma Jr., Donna and Gordon. Thelma and Ed spent first winter of their married life on this farm and Ed worked in lumber camps. Laurence was born in log house on this farm.

Milking cows, making butter and selling to local stores was the total income of the farm.

There were very few roads in the country, and to go a mile and a half to pick up mail, had to open five gates, travelling by horses and going across neighbours property.

Elvin, Roy and Erling live on farms here at Wenham Valley. They worked the land, played for dances for extra money. The dances began at eight p.m. and ended at five a.m. They received one dollar each for evening performance. Later years it increased to five dollars for three.

Arman, Victor and Raymond Wold followed their Dad and Uncle's footsteps and began playing at a very early age. Jodie Freeman played with them - playing piano on Search for Talent Shows. They won the Search for Talent in Wetaskiwin in 1950-1951. Arman, thirteen years old, Victor, eleven years, Raymond, eight years old. They went on to Edmonton to take part in semi-final and final where they won first in popularity and second in talent.

Arman has his own orchestra in Edmonton. The difference in pay between the 1930's and 1970 is, a new year dance each man receives from \$80.00 to \$100.00 for the evening, some probably get more.

Victor also plays in an orchestra and lives in Leduc.

The boys took part in many parades sometimes sponsored by their father, Elvin, who operated the Battle Lake Store at that time.

Jean and Betty Lund made their home here for nearly ten years. Jean works in Edmonton. Betty is in Wetaskiwin.

Victor and Leona have a little girl born August 1st, 1971.

Elvin and Anna Wold.

WOLF CREEK

WOLF; creek, North Saskatchewan river, 47-8-5. "Wolf Branch" of Arrowsmith map 1859; translation of Cree Indian name mu-hi-khan; in Stoney. sik-to-do wap-ta (Tyrrell).

"Place Names of Alberta."

A partial list of original settlers along the valley of Wolf Creek. The dates of occupancy may not be accurate as this is partially by memories of old timers and partially by true dates.



The little bear muses - "I crossed the Wolf Branch last January,
snug and warm inside a trapper's mackinaw.

Gibson	1934	47-8-5
Speakman, J.	1934	46-8-5
Pye, Percy	1934	46-8-5
Velkjar, E.	1933	46-8-5
Freeman, Caroll	1934	SE 12-46-8-5
Tipping, J. D.	1916	NE 1 -46-8-5
Nason	1935	NW 6-46-7-5
Doerr, Fred	1931	NW31-45-7-5
VonKruedener, Baron Juergin	1931	NW30-45-7-5
Ives, W. and H. in	1920's	NE30-45-7-5
Batemen, C. and G.	1932	NE30-45-7-5
Warren, Trustum	1931	SW19-45-7-5
Nelson, John	1933	NE 7-45-7-5
Shaw, Rollie	1931	SE 7 - 45-7-5
Bohning, Carl	1932	NW 5-45-7-5
Gayfer, John	1932	SW 4-45-7-5
Leraand, Andrew	1931	SW33-44-7-5
Iversen, Robert	1934	NE33-44-7-5
Warren, Lawrence	1933	SE21-44 7-5
Beeman in	1930's	SE 15-44-7-5

L. I. AND BETSY WOOD

The first families to arrive were: my parents, L. I. and Betsy Wood, and Uncle, A. G. Wood, Mr. and Mrs. Sundquist, Edbled Bros., Ringbloom, Pete Peterson, Mr. Christensen and Norstroms. My parents and Uncle came about 1901, the rest approximately 1905 to 1906. As I remember, they all had their first homesteads.

My father and uncle came from England and Mother was Canadian born.

My father had a trading post and he also worked for the Fisheries Dept.

Horses were our only means of travel. Our first home was a log house. Our first post office was at Westeros; J.A. McRae. The mail was carried from Wetaskiwin by team by Contractor Joe Cowen.

We attended South Pigeon Lake School. The early stores were Wood Bros.Store and Westeros Store. Pete Young ran a stopping house at Falun.

Our first ~~two~~ crops were threshed by flail. First threshing was done by a machine owned by L. O. Bunney. We got our water from Pigeon Lake. It took three days return trip to Wetaskiwin for a doctor.

The main entertainment was barn dances and picnics in summertime.

One bad storm dropped much snow in May. There were drifts seven feet deep.

Rowley's sawmills at Mulhurst, built a steamboat, stern wheel. This boat cruised around Pigeon Lake at night, holding old time dances on the upper deck, and was cause for a lot of excitement.

Albert Sundquist, I understand, is still farming at Pigeon Creek. In 1925 I drove mail from Wetaskiwin to Yeoford, stopping at Brightview, Falun, Westeros and Battle Lake, using a Model T, ton, truck in summertime and horses in winter (three teams).

Robert Wood.

DEWEY WOODS

I, the under signed, first saw Buck Lake in February 1922. Coming straight west from the Murfit hill two miles south of the Yeoford stores present site. We landed at the old Horndolph place, west of where Rhyland DeWitt now resides. The country at that time was to all intents and purposes solid spruce, with a little pine and some poplar, balm, birch and, of course, willow brush. Moose and deer were plentiful, as were partridges, prairie chicken and rabbits. Game seasons at that time were ~~not~~ thought of as such by the settlers. Meat of any kind was looked upon as O.K. but they did not harm a female that might have young, nor birds till the young ones were able to look after themselves, and no meat was allowed to go to waste. Fish were in abundance in the lake. So if a settler had a few cows, raised a litter of pigs, did a little trapping, raised a garden and maybe worked in the local saw mill, he made a good healthy living and was content.

My first trip to Buck Lake showed me plenty of game sign. So year after year with

a party of preferably four of us in the party, I would treck west in the big game season for the fall hunt. We always went home with a full quota. Even when the Elk season opened, and you had to get what they called a full head, (5 points on each side). Then the Second World War came along. The fall of 1939 as we trecked west to the Saskatchewan, people in the Buck Lake and Alder Flats area spoke of Schefflo's big field, 40 acres just east of the present site of Patten's Service Station. That was 39. I was not to see that country again till January of '47. The army took care of the time in between. When I came through Ponoka on my way to Wetaskiwin, I saw a Mr. Ross on the station platform. He had been thru' the Boer war, also the 1st world war, and anything Military was right up his alley. He shook my hand and patted me on the back, and said, "Well, Dewey, you wouldn't take a hell of a lot for what you've seen, would you?" "No, Mr. Ross", I said, "I wouldn't," but I wouldn't give a hell of a lot to see some more just like some of it either".



Dewey Woods and Charles Donald
preparing for a hunting trip.

I moved to Buck Lake. Was interested in a coffee shop for 9½ years. Took care of the Post Office for 15 years. Worked at the Buck Mountain Pasture for two years. Now I am too old to be of any more use.

I might send in a couple of pictures of horses, and even of hunting scenes. One little incident comes to mind. Charlie Donald and myself were camped out in that west country. We had made quite a circle on horseback, came to the Brazeau, about 180 feet down a steep bank to the water. Charlie said, "Too bad we can't cross here, cut off about 7 miles, and the water is shallow and a good place to get out over there on the other side". We went along for about 400 yards and there was a little V cleft with a half dozen elk tracks in it. He said, "Go ahead Woods, you can go any damn place those elk can". So I got off and led the horse down within about thirty feet of the bottom. There the trail ended; the elk had slid down. It was too steep to climb back out so I coaxed the pony a bit. She set her feet and slid down. I slid down beside her. We got out of the way and I yelled O. K. Charlie come on down. He coaxed his pony. She set her feet and slid down but Charlie slipped and came down like a kid on a hand sleigh on the seat of his pants. As he started to slide, he started to sing, "Son of a gun, we'll have big fun on the Bay yoo". He looked back and started to rub his seat, "I'll bet that rock is hot!"

Dewey Woods

H. WOODWARD by Harold Woodward Jr.

Dad was born in Birmingham, England in 1888. He married Amy Hughs in 1908. Winnifred and Doris were born in England. Dad came to Canada in 1912. There was depression at that time and no work for an electro-plater so he took a job for a while on a prairie farm. Mother and the girls followed the next year and Dad found employment in Winnipeg. When the war broke out in 1914 he went overseas, returning in 1919, he had stayed in London a few months after the armistice. The next year the family moved to Edmonton where Dad started his own electro plating business. Margaret and I were born in Edmonton. In 1931 Doctors advised Dad that he should leave his business and move into the fresh air. We had at times visited Steve Maxfield who lived in the Pendryl district and we decided to take up farming in this area. We bought the N.W. 33-45-5-W5 from Bill Taylor and moved into the log house that stood on this land, where we lived until a frame house was built about 1940. Margaret remained in Edmonton to finish High School. Dad stayed on the farm about five years then went back to the city, and his trade, for twenty-five cents an hour. Mother and I carried on with the farm as best we could. When I was 12 years old, I put in my first crop. Our neighbour Len Tuppin was a great help to me, instructing me in farming skills and he harvested the crop in the fall. That winter, I cleared five acres by hand and Mother and I managed to keep the farm growing. Dad was able to spend the two summer months with us and in 1948 he again left his trade and returned to the farm. He loved to entertain at house parties and concerts, singing, dancing and clowning in costumes.

Doris and her husband George Cox bought the NE 33-45-5-W5 from John Ille in 1940 and sold it to us the same year. Doris passed away unexpectedly and tragically in 1944 at the age of 33. Winnifred married Walter Neale in 1930 and they live in Victoria, B. C. Florence Kennedy and I were married in 1951. Florence was district nurse at Alder Flats

at the time. We built our home next to Mother and Dad on the N. W. of 33 and have lived there since. Our daughter Lois was born in 1959 and attends school at Winfield. Mother passed away in 1964 after a lengthy illness. Dad enjoys good health and a ready wit to this day and finds a great deal of pleasure in gardening.

YEOFORD LADIES CLUB

The Yeoford Ladies Club was formed in the fall of 1940. The organizational meeting was held at the home of Mrs. Gladys Tuckey with eight ladies joining at the time. Mrs. Margaret Gronow was the first president, Mrs. Crissie Dettman, secretary-treasurer and Mrs. Gladys Tuckey, vice president. The membership grew as time went with usually 15 or 16 members.

The aim of the club was for the purpose of the ladies getting together occasionally for a visit and to assist in the home or school (North Yeoford School and the centre of the community) or wherever help was needed. They assisted the school teachers in holding school picnics, buying the treats and prizes, and also helping with the Christmas programs and purchasing treats and gifts for the children.



Mrs. Margaret Gronow. The only Charter member still in Yeoford Ladies Club at the annual picnic, 1971. With her daughter, Gwyneth Thomas, also a club member.

During the war years, the members used to sew, knit and make quilts, etc., for the Red Cross, also send parcels to the boys overseas. Quilts were also made and raffled or kept for emergencies. Many a happy time was had at a quilting "bee". Many different money making projects were used to raise necessary club funds, such as chicken suppers, bean suppers, whist drives, bingos, catering at community sales, etc. A novel way of raising money in the early years was a "Travelling Basket". One member would start this by decorating a grape basket and baking a cake or some goody, putting it in the basket along with a three pound baking powder tin, also decorated, with a slit in the top, and carrying it personally to the nearest neighbour. They would enjoy a visit and a cup of coffee together. The basket was left with the cake, etc., used and a donation was put in the tin.

Then another item was put in the basket and carried to another neighbour's home, and so on until the basket had travelled through the community. This was a successful and pleasant venture, sometimes the sum of thirty dollars or so was realized.

Donations were made to many worthwhile projects, such as the Red Cross, Cancer Fund, educational progress, fire funds or wherever there was a need. Hospital baskets with a card were sent to cheer anyone from the district who had to spend time in the hospital.

The members, mostly walked to the various homes to the meetings, and other club activities, sometimes three or four miles, or drove with team and wagon or sleigh, very seldom were members absent or a meeting cancelled.

The club is still active with a membership of twenty-seven, with only two of the original members left, Mrs. Margaret Gronow and Mrs. Shirley Bleakney.

YEOFORD MEMOIRS by Margaret (Murfitt) Simonson

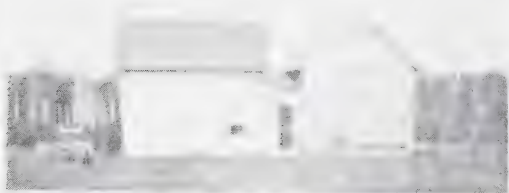
LOGGING - Dave Ricker had 3 or 4 logging camps along the Poplar Creek west of Yeoford. He hired gangs of men to do the logging in winter. They skidded all the logs to the banks of Poplar Creek, this took place just after break-up in the spring. They had heavy water gates on the creek. They put the logs in the creek and shut the gates, so the water backed up. In the morning they opened the gates and the rush of all that water took the logs with it. They had what they called the drive boys - they were men with heavy spiked boots, and each had a cant hook, or other heavy long prod. They rode the logs down the creek to the Saskatchewan River where they were taken to Frazers saw mill in Edmonton and made into lumber.

The job of the drive men was to see that the logs did not run against the creek bank where they would catch and cause a log jam. If this happened, it was a very hard and dangerous job to free them - often necessitating the use of stumping powder to blast them loose. The men had to be strong and sure footed as the logs would roll, and if you once fell and went under the logs, you had very little chance of coming out alive as the logs were

green and heavy, and thick on the water. A Mr. Bert Grant, a son-in-law of the Lloyds, was a drive boy. He told us some stories about men that slipped, and were nearly drowned. Other men would have to rescue them and apply artificial respiration to bring them around. The creek was too small to put the logs in booms as they did on the lakes, so they had to go loose. It was really a dangerous job.

I remember one spring after the loggers had come out, we saw 26 men with packs on their backs all walking together, going out for the drive. Often the gangs would stop at our house for a drink of water, as we lived close to the road. At that time the road came across Chris Jensen's and Ilo Benney's fields, down on the Battle River Flats into the Peter Nestland's and up the hill just east of Mirt Murfitt's house, then went on west, north of the house, out west through Sanford Nelson's place, past Stenhauser's and Oscar Skoglund's place, across a bridge and up the hill again past Boyd Chapman's and Oscar Olen's homestead. It crossed another creek near Sanford Nelson's sawmill and went past Charlie Olin's.

Charlie Olin was the first Liberal member of Parliament for Wetaskiwin, but he and his wife each had a quarter of land. As his wife had been a widow whose husband hadn't taken a homestead in Alberta, she was allowed to take one. They had the house built half on his land, and half on her land. As the law required you to sleep on your land six months out of each year for three years in order to prove up your homestead, she slept in her part and he in his. They spent the summers on their homesteads and most of the winters in their city home in Wetaskiwin. My brother, Mirt, worked for Mr. Olin quite a lot on the



Charlie Olin homestead house

homestead.

Charlie Olin had a son and two daughters. The boy died as the result of an accident when he was around 21 years old. The girls were Mable and Olga. Mable married and went to live in Calgary. Olga loved this country, and although crippled, spent as much time here as she could. As she found it difficult to walk, she had a three wheeled bike which she rode to get mail and groceries.

Olga's Uncle, Ludwig Frieberg, homesteaded the SW 25-46 3-W5. He had a nice house built of logs, hewn square with a broad axe, which he kept very neat. It burned down and as he was too old to build another one, he went to live with Mirt and Minnie Murfitt. He lived there about two years. One afternoon while they were out in the yard sawing wood with the circle saw and engine, Minnie went in to fix up the fire and at this time he was sitting in the arm chair reading. When she came in again she thought there was something odd about the way he was sitting, and as he did not talk or move, she quickly called Mirt. It was then that they realized he was dead. They had been very good friends for many years, as Mirt had worked with him on the bridge gang. Mr. Frieberg left the homestead to Olga in his will. She spent two summers with Mirt and Minnie before she got her little house built. She was very proud of her little house and interested in its construction. She would spend the winters in Calgary with her sister, Mabel, and come out here as soon as possible in the spring, and staying as late in the fall as she could.

Mirt worked with Bridge Foreman, Charles Youngberg, Lidwug Frieberg and Oscar Ostrom. He had his team on the job to pull a 1600 lb. hammer up the bridge building derrick to pound the posts (piles) in the ground to build the bridge on. They built bridges all over the Wetaskiwin district. Oscar Ostrum and Charlie Youngberg both lived in Wetaskiwin but they lived in a tent all together wherever they built bridges.

Rev. Waterman came to the Seattle School just after it was built, and conducted services there a few times. He was from Brightview, a Baptist minister. There was another young single man, but I don't remember his name. Rev. Nelson worked in Fullerton's mill. He preached at Battle Lake Church and on alternate Sundays, walked and rode over here to conduct services at Lloyd's. He baptized Herb and I. He was an elderly man whose wife had died. He had a boy named John and two girls. One, Esther, married Mr. Walter Fullerton who had a store and mill, and the other girl, Rebecca, married Kenneth Heacock who clerked in Fullerton's store. Later Fullerton moved his saw mill somewhere west of Wenham Valley.

There was another man named Papineau who had a sawmill north of Battle Lake for some years but he left before I did in early 1916. There was another mill near him, but I cannot remember who owned it. Mirt bought his lumber for his first house from him.

The first teacher at Seattle School was Kenneth Purdy, who was followed by Philip

Rossiter, who was only 17 years old and taught on a permit, Percy Bront was next. He was originally from Ontario and sometimes walked beside my horse as I rode home from school, as he left right after school to go to Yeoford for his mail. He would tell me stories about Ontario, and I was very interested as that was where my parents came from. The fourth teacher was Ben Bunney. That's when I left and went to stay with my sister, Laura Kravik, at Dorendee.

Mr. and Mrs. Morrison had the Yeoford Post Office. They had, I think, four sons, Charlie, Arthur, Albert and, I think, Bill was the name of the other one. They were English folk from the Old Country. Charlie and Arthur Morrison used to take people out when they came looking for homesteads and would show them the land that was still open to be filed on. They had maps of the townships showing all the land that was already taken.

Later the post office was moved to Charlie Tatrow's residence. Mr. and Mrs. Henry Miller were making their home with him until they got buildings up on their new homestead. This was the last old Yeoford place. The Millers ran the post office as Tatrow could not read English very well, he was French. Before the Millers left, Tatrow got a housekeeper that ran the post office for him. I do not remember her name but she had a boy my age and a baby girl, I think. Tatrow sold his place to John P. Nowell who had two sons, Jack and Billy, and one daughter, Theresa, they always called Siss. She later married Ilo Bunney.

Sanford Nelson was a blacksmith and did quite a lot of work for the surrounding community. Mrs. Nelson had some nurses training so helped out in sickness, and delivered babies in the district. Mother Murfitt also delivered a few babies.

One of our main sports in the spring when water was high in Battle River was fishing. Mother cleaned, washed them and salted them a bit in a crock in the cellar. We'd have fish for quite a time after the water had gone down. It was at spring run-off and after real heavy rains in the summer when water was high that the fish came up on Nathaniel Seymore and Peter Nestland flats just east of Mirts.

The William Miltons lived where W. Bunney is now and kept a stallion. There was, for a time, a sort of co-op among the farmers when the government placed a bull in the community, and Mr. Milton took care of it. The homesteaders took their mares and cows over there for service. A small fee was charged to pay for the bull's keep. A Mr. John Robertson who lived north of Peter Campbell also had a stallion and travelled with it.

Arthur C. Bunney and sons had the first threshing machine in the district. It was small and quite primitive. One man stood with a knife and cut the twine on the bundles and fed them into the carrier, while another man stood at the rear, caught the straw as it came out and pitched it back in a stack. It was run by a gasoline engine.

Our meat was mostly ruffed grouse, spruce birds, prairie chicken and fish. Some were lucky enough to get a deer or moose in the fall. When we got land broke and could grow grain, we had pigs, chickens and later, beef to butcher. We always had a big garden and sold many potatoes.

Sister Laura married Ole E. Kravik and had five children; Albert Mirton, who passed away at 21 years; Eleanor, Mrs. Everett Tollin; Evelyn, Mrs. Albin Johnson of Edberg; Edwin of Dorendee and Alice died at age one. Eleanor and her husband are in poor health and reside in a senior citizens home in Red Deer.

My husband, Olie Simonson, and I have 11 children. The eldest, Louis Olef, had been an architect since 1951. He graduated from University of Manitoba, Winnipeg. He was 3 years overseas in World War II, as a pilot in Air Force, Pilot Instructor and a bomber pilot on the big four-motor planes - made 39 trips over enemy country with 7 man crew. When discharged he was a Flight Lieutenant. He now resides in Etobicoke, Ontario and has two children.

2. Myrtle Irene (Mrs. John Podmore) Ferintosh, one son; 3. Doris, Mrs. Art Lainchbury, Ferintosh, one daughter; 4. Arnold G. Simonson, Kelowna, four children; 5. Clayton of Camp Borden, Ont., 29 years in the R. C. A. F., two children; 6. Ivan A. died Aug. 18, 1948, age 17 years; 7. Clara, Mrs. Jim Fullen, Camrose, six children; 8. Joyce, Mrs. Murray Butler, Red Deer, nine children; 9. Ross, married, no family, Red Deer; 10. Lorraine, Mrs. Harvey Butler, Red Deer, five children; 11. Caroline Annie, Mrs. Ivan Conturier, Red Deer, three children.

"News Clipping" - Yeoford Store Proprietor Has Varied Experience.

Mike and Nell Visser have made many new friends since taking over Yeoford General Store and Post Office April 28 from John and Jane Williamson.

The business has changed hands many times since its beginning many years ago but the Vissers have held the first Grand Opening Celebrations in its history. Free coffee and Nell's own very tasty Dutch cakes and cookies were served to all customers for three opening days. Dan Walters, representing Merco Wholesalers, presented them with a beautiful bouquet of tulips and was in attendance the first day doing the best to keep the shelves full of stock.

A free \$10.00 grocery hamper was given away each day. Thursday's hamper was won by Mrs. Gwyneth Thomas; Friday by Mr. Joe Imbery; Saturday by Mr. Roy Wold. It was a first time occasion for Mr. Imbery and Mr. Wold too, as neither had ever won a thing before.

The Vissers hope to enlarge in the future and perhaps have a Snack Bar. Nell is an excellent cook, trained in school with lots of experience as chef in their Edmonton business and for her family.

Mike and Nell are both natives of Holland. Nell being born and raised in Apeldoorn. Mike was born in Leeuwarden - Northern Holland - but was also raised in Apeldoorn. He took five years Cavalry Training with the Fourth Regiment Hussars. The war years were spent in the underground service and the balance of fifteen years in the Royal Dutch Koninklijke Marechaussee (Mounted Police). On making plans to come to Canada, he decided to change his profession and worked several years in advertising, business administration, newspapers. He became office manager for the National newspaper in Apeldoorn-De Telegraaf until July, 1957 when they came to Canada.

Mike married Petronella Wassink and their two boys, Bill and Mike Jr. were born in Holland and their only daughter, Shirley, was born in Canada.

They arrived in Halifax August 31 and headed straight for Edmonton. He worked at the Macdonald Hotel, Canada Dry, Simpson Sears and finally as purchasing agent for the Clinical Laboratories at the University Hospital.

Mike and Nell were Scoutmaster and Scoutmother in Holland and one of the parents wrote a book - "Our Camp in Brandaris" (Under the Lighthouse) and presented it to the Vissers. It's the story of the troop covering their many experiences with illustrations of the story highlights. They proudly show this to friends and customers who show interest. On coming to Canada Mike carried on with this work as Scoutmaster for Sixth Holy Trinity Troop in Edmonton. He also started the Spruce Grove Troop, working with Glen Carmichael's help. Glen taught here at Wenham Valley School before he was married and is well known in this area.

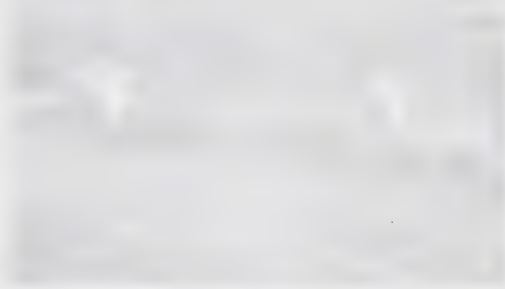
The Vissers also purchased Reed's Restaurant in Mayfield Shopping Centre, where they both became very close to the Mayfield teenagers, listening to their problems and helping them with homework problems. Nell took over the cooking and introduced some Indonesian Dishes. After three years they sold out and opened up the Ponderosa in Jasper Place Shopping Plaza with Lorne Green's personal permission to use the name. It was the first cafe to serve a complete Indonesian Menu here in Alberta and Mike thinks perhaps western Canada. Their son, Bill helped her in the kitchen and still loves to cook in his own home.

The Vissers decided they'd like to leave the heavy demands of the "city rat race" as Mike puts it and live with their country cousins where they can have a few hours a day to themselves to relax and enjoy life.

The Vissers returned to Holland for a visit in 1962 and enjoyed it immensely. Who knows, perhaps the space now occupied by the Yeoford Post Office which is to close July 31 may be a spot to come and have a coffee and Indonesian Snack with your neighbour after you've finished shopping. The future can hold many surprises and good cooking is always in demand. Many changes have been made inside and out since their arrival at Yeoford General Store. Congratulations and best of Luck for a long, successful and happy life in our midst.

YEOFORD STORE AND POST OFFICE

The Marsden family came from England in 1908. One of their valued possessions was a small flock of chickens. The first winter they suffered badly frozen feet and their "tenderfoot" owners made tiny stilts for them to keep their feet off the icy footing until they healed. The Marsden family made their home just north-west side of Mount Butte. Mrs. Marsden carried the mail horseback from Westerose to their home where the first Post Office was opened. A pistol was always carried on her hip for protection. Charles H. Maison was postmaster in 1910, Morrison had Post Office in 1911. He had four sons, Charlie,



Overlooking Yeoford Store from North



Yeoford store log living quarters



1 New look



At Last! First gas pump with underground storage



On the move to new location



C On NE 35-46-3 W5

Arthur, Albert and Bill. In the same year, Tatrow and Henry Miller owned a store. When the Post Office was moved to the store, Miller ran the P. O. as Tetreau didn't read English very well. After Henry Miller left Tetreau's housekeeper ran P. O. She had two children. Before too long J. P. Nowell took over the P. O. and then he took over the store too. Mr. Nowell built what is now the original portion of the existing store. After several years Yeoford Store was sold to Otto Mattson who married Miss Ruth Wier, a teacher. When they left, Peter and Signi Brookfield and Oscar Ostrum jointly owned it and started hauling cream and delivering groceries in conjunction with the store and P. O. Cliff and Gladys Tuckey who had two young children, Dorothy and Ralph, carried on with the post office and store business and built up a good trucking business as well before they sold to Rudy and Jordice Torestburg and baby Gail in 1943. They only kept it two years till they sold to Burgess and Alice Fullerton in 1945 who had two children, Carroll and Dale. They carried on with all the business including the trucking for a year before they sold to Colin A. Gillies in 1946. With his sister, Margaret, helping him, they kept up the Post Office and store for a few years but eventually dropped the trucking. Up until this time the business had a very pretty site along the Battle Lake Trail on NE 30-46-2-W5, which was then known as Highway 19. Progress saw the new highway built straight west past Yeoford to Norbuck corner, better known as 19A now. Business from tourists dropped fast and the decision to sell or move to the highway had to be made. Negotiations were finally made and William Bunney sold a corner of land up on Highway 19 to Colin's Uncle, Mr. MacIntyre and in September 1950 Yeoford store and P.O. and gas pumps and bulk gas and oil made it's big move to the present site on NE 35-46-3-W5. On July 15, 1954, Colin married a school teacher of Winfield School, Miss Ethel Romanow. In August 1962, after a decision to try a change, the Gillies sold to David and Mary Wilson who in turn sold it after only one year to Dan and Margaret Holmes. They kept it four yeas then sold to John and Jane Williamson in August 1967. When Williamsons took over, the post office was changed to an accounting office and did a good business. Now, up to \$100.00 money

orders could be purchased rather than the old, very limited, rule of up to \$15.99 money orders. Four years ago only 27 patrons got their mail there but many new families moving in boosted the total to thirty-five patrons. Mike and Nell Visser were looking for a nice country business to retire with and on April 26, 1969, took over. Regretably, closure was forced on Yeoford Post Office on July 21, 1969. The end of a pioneering era to a thriving modern community now having at least nine miles to a nearest post office. However, a mail route serves the community from Westeros but the inconvenience of no post office still exists.

Several mail carriers have served since Mrs. Marsden. Some of whom were: Bob Woods who drove mail from Wetaskiwin to Yeoford stopping at Brightview, Falun, Westeros and Battle Creek. He had a relay of three good teams of horses, Dick Woods. When they started using two couriers is not known but many have carried the mail from Westeros to Yeoford. Some are: Bill Nowell, Andy Ewart, Ed Westerland, Wes Meyers, Tom Dorchester family, T. J. Gronow, Gordon Welburn, Erwin Muller, Stan Wright, Wilf Wright who is at present carrying the mail (1972). In the late 1960's Fisher Home P. O. was included on R.R. 1 Westeros route. The Yeoford store still has a good business and now a "cup of coffee corner" has taken over the space of the old post office.

JULIUS YEHAZ

Julius Yehaz bought SE 2-47-3-W5 and moved there in 19 . He started the first large scale bee business in Yeoford area. They kept their honey house spotless and at no time was their floor ever sticky. Cleanliness came first. Helping him with his business was Leslie Bujtaz who also enjoyed the work. For the winter they had a room off their living quarters where they kept busy with leather work. They were trained in leather work and their work was in great demand - they couldn't keep up to the orders for saddles, halters, folding chairs, belts, wallets, vests, anything leather they'd make. They also did some shoe last work. Julius sold the farm to John Williamson in 1965 and moved to northern Alberta with his bee business. Leslie went with him but later came back to Edmonton where he still is employed.

John Williamson carried on in a bee business as well as farming.

ED AND FRANCIS YOUNG

My parents, Ed and Francis Young, came to Buck Lake in 1927 from Seattle, Washington. They had a 1924 Ford car and each year he took two weeks holiday from Standard Oil, where he ran a gas station. They holidayed one summer around Calgary around 1925, and Dad heard the government was opening up land west of Edmonton. He applied for homestead which was granted and in 1927, they settled their affairs in Seattle and set out.

Their car mired down in the mud around Red Deer, so Mom remained at Red Deer and Dad went on in by horse and buggy and set up temporary quarters. Fall time, he went out to Red Deer and worked haying around Red Deer and High River. The car was traded or sold for a team of horses. They went in during the spring and built their first house of logs, I'm not sure if this had a floor, chinked with mud and moss.

Dad hauled freight for Mr. Tipping who owned the store at that time. He also carried mail for the Post Office ran by Charlie McCallum and wife. Both Post Office and store were at the lake shore.

Their first two winters were spent around High River. Dad worked to buy lumber to build the second house which was larger than the log one. This was made of dressed or semi-dressed lumber about 1929. A well was dug and cows were



Ed and Francis Young and children, Mona and June

bought.

My older sister was born at home in 1931, attended by district nurse, Miss Phillips, because Mom had polio at a young age she was left with one withered leg which made childbirth difficult. The nearest doctor was Wetaskiwin. Dad made a rush trip to Winfield, got word through Mr. Sabin (store owner at Winfield) to Wetaskiwin. The doctor was relayed by horse and buggy by one farmer and then another to Winfield, where Dad picked him up

and made one change before making it home. Delivery was made, both O.K. She was named June. Two years later, I was born two months prematurely. I was born at home also, attended by Miss Amy Conroy. There were no incubators then, so I was kept on the oven door of the kitchen stove, wrapped in wool batts and flannelette for about 2 months. The



Ethel Comeau, Frances Young -
Completion of first house, 1928.

district nurse made periodic checks on most of the families and when a sufficient number of tonsils and teeth needed attending to, a clinic was set up in the community hall. A doctor and two nurses were brought in and this became a temporary hospital for about three days. This became a community project, everyone pitched in cooking meals and attending to others needs.

A school was built of logs which was later torn down by Dad and added to our house to make extra accommodations where people often stopped to rest horses and eat. After the second school made of lumber, Miss Plumbley (now Mrs. Flo Whedeman, Edson, Alta.) boarded and taught the 8 grades. Later, Mr. Thomas Sheridan from Alder Flats came to teach (now at Ponoka), then Mrs.

Wm. Doyle.

Because it was almost impossible for most of the farmers to afford a manufactured coffin in which to bury their families, my dad began to make coffins and rough boxes for the cost of the lumber (often meat or vegetables were given toward the cost of this). The nearest grave yard was Maywood.

There were no refrigerators and ice houses were used to keep meat fresh. These houses were made of logs with sawdust from small mills packed around blocks of ice - cut with an ice saw from the lake during the winter. As were many things done by neighbours getting together, ice was got in the winter. Four or five neighbours cut enough ice for all, then hauled home as each needed it. Haying, seeding and plowing was done in the same manner.

Dad and Mom moved to Dewdney in 1945. Dad died 1964, Mom died 1967.

Dad, like many other men supplemented our farm by: fishing during the winter months, through the ice, with nets to catch whitefish, walleye and pike: hunting squirrels, weasels and trapping muskrats. These were shipped to Hudson Bay Co. in Edmonton: raised extra chickens, cows and pigs which we killed and cleaned and sold to Etter McDougal who had a saw mill.

ED AND SADIE YOUNG

Ed Young Sr. was born April 1, 1904 and lost his parents when very young. His uncle, Ed Spencer, raised him and brother, Bill. Uncle Ed bought NE 6-46-1-W5 homestead of Kinsman family near west end of Battle Lake. Mrs. Kinsman was a nurse. He died in early 1930's.



Ed and Sadie Young and her
mother, Mrs. Minnie Anderson.

Sadie Belle Anderson was born November 23, 1898 and came to Yeoford homestead with her parents on May 2, 1911.

Ed and Sadie were married on December 31, 1925 and lived on NW 21-46-1-W5. Two sons were born, Jack and Ed Jr. Jack and Leona and family live in Camrose. Ed and Alvie now live at Lakedell school where she teaches school. Jack works at Rosehaven in Camrose. Ed does carpenter work or cooking.

Ed and Sadie now make their home in Vernon, B. C. Ed's brother, Bill, also lives in Vernon.

PHILIP ZAROWSKI as told to B. Bunney

Philip Zarowski and Walter came from Saskatoon, Sask. in 1938 and by train from Edmonton to Winfield, walking out from there looking at land and camped at Mount Butte. Dan Nicholson was on his way home and took them back along this way to show them land. They settled on NW 1-47-3-W5, where the strong flowing spring took his eye. Nester came in 1939 walking out from Wetaskiwin and went working for Ilo Bunney's helping hay. After



Miss Isobel Zarowski, teacher Wenham Valley. Back Row: Valdis & Laurel Norman, Ellen Atkinson. Front Row: Donna Jones, Ernestine Jones.

his Dad was established, Walter left to go out working too. Nester worked for Etter-McDougal mill. They only had two wash basins for all the men to get washed in, the bunk house had little tiny windows, narrow bunks side by side and at night wet clothes hung up to the ceiling stunk to high heaven. The cook brought their noon meal to them in cans and pie for dessert. If they didn't like the pie the horses loved it. (The company sawed 12 million feet of lumber the men never got paid for because of what they called a scribes scale). Nester can remember threshing in the south then riding "Muskeg Special" train back to Winfield for mill work and men dropped off all along the way. The lumber trucks spittled lumber all the way to Wetaskiwin. If the saw sharpening stand was in your bunk house the noise went on for hours on end and guys couldn't sleep.

One bad fire close to Ed Hamlings home. Mrs. stayed in the house with the children while the men fought to keep the fire back from the house. A bear came to the house windows and she played their gramophone real loud and kept him scared away. Bill Bunney, some other boys and Nester, including one with a wooden wheeled bike, were riding to Ma-Me-O Beach. To see how much spring there was in wooden wheels, Bill rode his bike into the wooden wheel. Another time Bill and Nester each got a terrific scare - Nester was digging Seneca Root in Bunney's field unaware Bill had planted a dead cow baited for coyotes in a field ravine. A true hunter habit Bill never shot anything until he knew what it was. When he saw a

black object moving in that direction he was sneaking up in the rain for a close look when Nester, in his black raincoat stood up. Nester had a home on the farm here beside his Dad and Morris, but works in Edmonton part time. Morris stays on the farm with his Dad. Isabel trained for a teacher and her first schools - student teaching two weeks at Cree Valley, then terms at Wenham Valley and North Yeoford before she left. The other children were Walter, Emil, Natalie, Victor, Stella and Adolph.

MEDICINE LAKE PROVINCIAL GRAZING RESERVE

Development of the Medicine Lake Provincial Grazing Reserve was initiated at the request of the County of Ponoka in 1959. After investigating several proposed sites, an area was ultimately selected which included, all of Twp. 41, Rge. 5, W5 Mer. excepting the south-east quarter of the township, all of Twp. 43, Rge. 6, W5 Mer. (excepting certain lands in the southeast part), all of Twp. 44, Rge. 5, W5 Mer. and all of Twp. 45, Rge. 6, W5 Mer.

Development of the reserve under the auspices of the Chairman of the Land Utilization Committee, Department of Agriculture, began in 1964 with the construction of fencing to enclose a block of three sections on the east side and a block of two sections on the west side of Twp. 44, Rge. 6, W5 Mer., with a drift fence running along the north side of the Forestry Road to connect the two areas.

The block of land that was reserved for this grazing Reserve included both Medicine Lake and Gosling Lake which provide fishing for the angling public. To complement this, a small park had been established on Medicine Lake.

In 1966, it was decided that an area adjacent to and immediately north of the first block would be more suitable for development to provide improved pasture. Consequently, parts of Twp. 45, Rge. 3, 4 and 5, W5 Mer. were added to the reservation for development of the Reserve.

In the fall of 1967, a commitment was made to representatives of the Alberta Sheep Producers that this pasture would be developed for the communal grazing of sheep.

During 1968, the Lyle Gooler property was purchased for a headquarters site, and during the following winter the first development was started with the clearing of fence lines and fields.

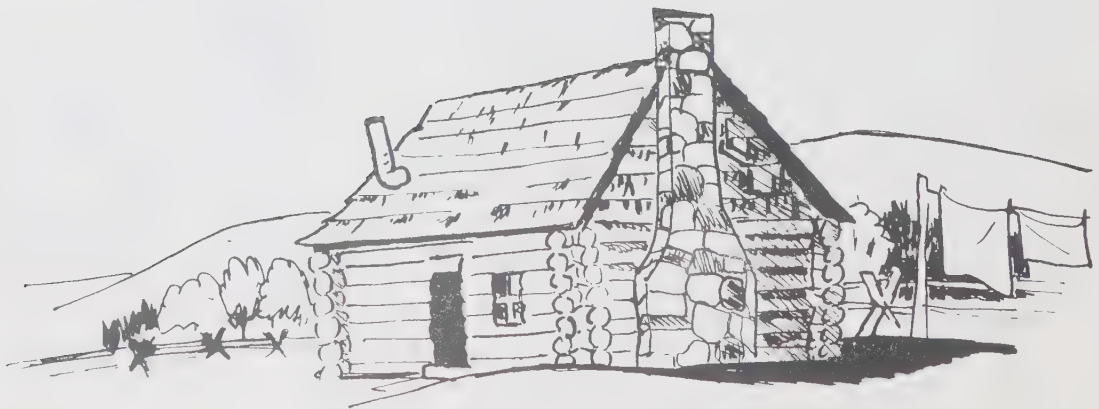
By 1972, some 2,650 acres have been cleared, broken and seeded to a tame pasture mixture, with a further 780 acres to be completed during the summer. An area of 825 acres has been cleared and is being grazed by the sheep in this state as part of a management program. This is a communal type pasture development and operated under the jurisdiction of the Lands Division of the Department of Lands and Forests.

To date, development of the Reserve has been designed primarily for sheep grazing.

However, further development will include cattle grazing, and planning will take into consideration other land use and conservation interests.

The Medicine Lake Grazing Reserve was opened to the public in 1969. In 1972, 3,200 head of sheep belonging to 30 patrons are being accommodated, along with 54 head of cattle, which are being grazed with the sheep on a trial basis. Bruce Hale, Reserve Manager, looks after the welfare of the livestock while they are on the pasture.

This Reserve, when completed, will be one of the better ones in Alberta, due to its high rainfall rate, excellent growing weather, and cool nights, combined with a topography particularly suitable for grazing. It has already had a marked influence on the increased sheep population of central Alberta, and will undoubtedly prove an asset to local cattle producers who take advantage of its services.



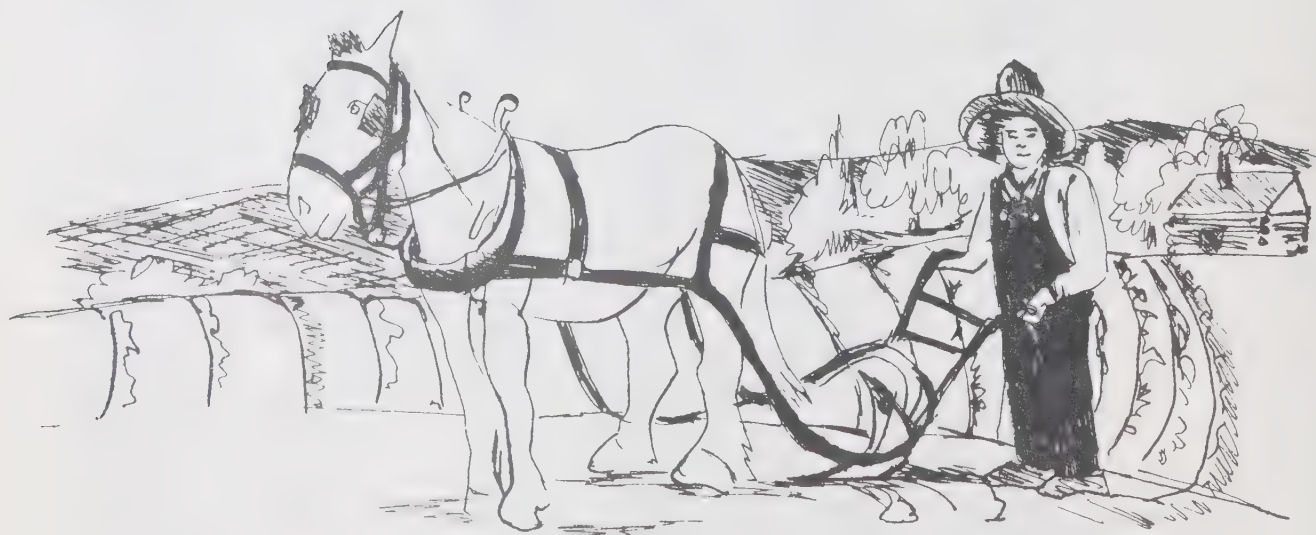
ARROTT DENNIS L.H.	BETLAMINI BROS RT. SH	BEIGANEK HM & SON RT. H	BUNNEY I.W. JR & SONS RT. H	CARTIER E. L. SH	CARTIER THOMAS & CROTTY ROBERT L.H.
CRIPPS LORNE RT. H.	BATTLE LAKE RANCH RT. R.	BROWN HUGH. E. L.R.	BENSON KENNETH L.H.	BENSON MERLE L.H.	BENGSTON A.H. L.H.
BEATH GLEN RT. H.	BALDWIN DON RT. H.	BAUMAN ELMER L. SH.	DUFFY JOHN L.H.	DUNN NORMAN & SONS RT. SH.	FONTAINE LEO RT. H.
FONTAINE JOE & MERLYN RT. SH.	GOODALL ALEX RT. H.	GOODKEY DONALD RT. SH.	GROVER GARY L.H.	HANDBURY C.N. RT. H.	HAWKINS ROY L.R.
HAYES ERNEST L.R.	JACKSON ARTHUR L. SH.	JONES MELVIN RT. H.	LARSON KENNETH L.H.	LEE ERNEST. V. L. SH.	LONG HARVEY RT. H.
LONG C.F. RT. SH.	LITVAK EMIL L.H.	TOMPKINS, RAY L. SH.	WASYK, NICK RT. R.	WENNERSTROM, ERIC L.H.	WILSON, W L.H.
LEONHARDT VICTOR RT. SH.	MAGNUSON ETHEL L.H.	MCLEAN HAROLD L. SH.	MURFITT MIRTON RT. R.	PAHL ARTHUR. A. L.H.	THOMPSON BILL L.H.
PETERSON JAMES RT. SH.	PINION GORDON RT. H.	RATHGEBER W.M. RT. H.	RAYCROFT BERNARD L.R.	REYNOLDS W.M. RT. R.	RICHARDS W.J. & SON L. SH

$\begin{array}{c} \text{J} \\ \text{R} \end{array}$ RIGBY; Les + Son RT.H.	$\overline{2R}$ RUPERTUS; Rowland RT.SR.	$\begin{array}{c} 7 \\ S \end{array}$ ST.DENIS; AURELE RT.H.	$\widehat{2S}$ SHERWOOD; Gordon RT.SR.	\overline{OS} SCHENK; Lawrence RT.R.	CDH SKRYPNEK; Henry RT.R.
\overline{CT} SORGE; Albert L.H.	\overline{RS} SORGE; RUDOLPH RT.H.	\overline{CT} THURBER; Tom RT.R.	\overline{D} WILLOWS; Frank + Son. L.SR.	\overline{WB} WILLOWS; R.E. L.H.	\overline{HW} WOODWARD; HAROLD RT.R.
$\overline{E7}$ COOMBS; Erle L.SR.	\overline{EE} ENGBLOM; Eric L.SR.	\overline{W} WILLOWS; RON L.SR.	$\widehat{2W}$ WILLOWS; DAVID L.R.	DVS STANNARD; Don. RT.R.	\overline{TV} GROVER; Vernon L.A.
\widehat{VL} ENGBLOM; Victor L.SR.	$\begin{array}{c} L \\ O \end{array}$ ALCOCK; Lloyd RT.H.	$\overline{3A}$ BRDWIN; ARON P. L.R.	$\overline{C5}$ CHAPCHUK; Dimitri RT.H.	\overline{AD} DEWITT; R. L.R.	$\overline{2D}$ DUNCAN; George L.R.
\overline{AD} ENGBLOM; Walter L.H.	JSF FOSTER; James RT.R.	$\widehat{96}$ FLORENCE; Gordon. L.A.	\overline{XL} GLASEL; Ernest RT.H.	$\begin{array}{c} 2 \\ 2 \end{array}$ GOOLER; Dale + Lyle L.R.	\overline{H} HOVDE; Ted A. RT.H.
\overline{OH} HANNA; W. Orten RT.SR.	$\widehat{7U}$ HASTINGS; Harry D. RT.H.	$\begin{array}{c} 6 \\ L \end{array}$ KARY; Lawrence C. RT.H.	\overline{K} KISS; Peter RT.H.	\overline{KX} KELGREN; Dwight A. L.R.	\overline{KA} LANGMUIR; Edward L.R.
\overline{OL} LEFEVER; Donald A. L.SR.	$\begin{array}{c} L \\ 7 \end{array}$ LYSTER; Lyle RT.H.	$\begin{array}{c} V \\ 6 \end{array}$ MILLER; Victor RT.H.	\overline{HH} MACIBORSKI; Carl L.H.	$\overline{2R}$ MCLEOD; Robert A. L.R.	$\overline{2M}$ MACIBORSKI; George L.H.
$\begin{array}{c} J \\ \downarrow \end{array}$ McBURNIE; JH + E L.R.	AKO ODEGAARD; Ken, RT.R.	$\begin{array}{c} E \\ O \end{array}$ OLD; Eric RT.SR.	$\begin{array}{c} U \\ \downarrow \end{array}$ SARGEANT; Dale L.H.	-35 SEELY; Linda Diane + Allen RT.R.	$\begin{array}{c} U \\ S \end{array}$ SCHENK; Mrs. Pearl RT.H.

CATTLE BRANDS
taken from Brand Book 1966
and Supplement 1968.

<u>KA</u> ADAMS, K. M. rt. r.	<u>SD</u> DURANT; Schuyler rt. sh.	<u>EV</u> JOHNSON; Harry S. rt. sh.	<u>5M</u> MEIKER L. l. h.	<u>DP</u> PARKER; Mrs. G. H. + D. C. rt. h.	<u>RRL</u> SEELY; Mrs. + Mrs. Fred + E. l. r.
<u>A</u> ANDERSON, Andrew W. l. r.	<u>EVF</u> FORCHUK; Mrs. + Mrs. V. E. rt. r.	<u>7K</u> KELLOGG; Albert rt. r.	<u>7B</u> MICKU, James l. sh.	<u>LD</u> PATTEN, Doug l. h.	<u>LAH</u> SEELY; Lewis A. + Sons r. r.
<u>WB</u> BOUCK, Mrs. + Mrs. W. rt. r.	<u>H</u> FOSTER; Harry l. sh.	<u>LK</u> KISS, Louis l. h.	<u>LAM</u> MILLER; Leigh A. rt. r.	<u>UL</u> POUDRIER, M. l. sh.	<u>MKS</u> SEELY; Mrs. + G. l. r.
<u>BL</u> BROWN, Mrs. + Mrs. W. H. rt. h.	<u>D-F</u> FRASER, Glen l. r.	<u>KO</u> KNIGHT, Orville A. l. h.	<u>ME-</u> MILLS; Mrs. A. F. + John E. rt. r.	<u>-AR</u> RAINIER, A. J. l. r.	<u>S</u> SHANKS; Gordon A. l. r.
<u>RB</u> BRZUS; Leon + Rudolph rt. r.	<u>PF</u> FUNK, Peter l. sh.	<u>7K</u> KIRKMAN; Paul F. l. sh.	<u>7E</u> DUNN, A. Sons rt. r.	<u>X</u> RAINIER; Paul B. l. sh.	<u>H</u> SIEGEL, Herman P. r. sh.
<u>ABC</u> CLEMMER; Mrs. + Mrs. Allen l. r.	<u>SJ</u> HAMMOND, Clyde C. l. sh.	<u>BS</u> STEWART; Mrs. + Mrs. H. l. h.	<u>2</u> NICOLLS; Elgin l. h.	<u>LS</u> SEELY; L. C. l. r.	<u>-CS</u> SIUDY; John l. r.
<u>CL</u> CLEMMER; Clare G. rt. h.	<u>H</u> HLAVOY; Frank. rt. h.	<u>2-L</u> LAKSON, Lars H. l. r.	<u>JI</u> IMBERY; J. P. l. h.	<u>SD</u> SEELY; Doyle. l. r.	<u>MJS</u> SPEAKMAN, John F. rt. r.
<u>DIC</u> COOK; Mrs. + Mrs. D. I. rt. r.	<u>JC</u> JANKE; Carl rt. sh.	<u>3</u> MACLEAN; Bras. rt. sh.	<u>FP</u> PARKER; Floyd W. rt. r.	<u>-SE</u> SEELY; Mrs. + Mrs. E. E. l. r.	<u>TE</u> THOMAS; Edward l. h.

<u>E</u> E SIEGEL; Donald RT.H.	<u>S</u> 7 STEWART; Mrs. Shirley J. RT.H.	<u>W</u> <u>O</u> <u>S</u> SPENCE; WILLIAM L. L.H.	<u>4S-</u> SHERWOOD; Archibald M L.R.	<u>-OT</u> TODEROVICH; George L.R.	<u>7T</u> THOMAS; Michael A. RT.H.
<u>AW</u> WAHSH; Charles A. L.H.	<u>BP</u> WILLIAMS; Morley L.R.	<u>S</u> <u>L</u> STEEVES; Brian RT.H.	<u>N</u> J WATSON; Gordon R.R.	<u>D</u> 7 EISENBARTH; Fred L.R.	<u>C</u> C CLEMMER; Paul L.H.
<u>EP</u> PETERSON; Sam L.R.	<u>S</u> 7 LACZO; Don L.S.H.	<u>CY</u> ST. DENIS; Cyril RT.H.			





Buck Lake Baseball Team 1941
L. to R. 1. Les McCaggarty, 2. Harry Braddison, 3. Teddy Pocha, 4. unidentified, 5. Vern Vadell, 6. Lyman Haff, 7. Freddie Harmon, 8. Hank Goltz, 9. Art Rachu.



Buck Lake Flood raising 1941.



Play - "Here Comes Grandma" by Nurses Auxilliary members in the 1930's. R. to L. (1) Dick Clemmer, (2) Drell Smith, (3) Unknown (4) Tom Clay, (5) Frank Anderson, (6) Marcella Kluczny, (7) Lucy Johnson, (8) sitting Mrs. Day Sr. (9) Mrs. Clemmer Sr. (10) Mrs. Turnbull (11) Grace Panek, (12) Marie Panek, (13) Myrtle Sorenson. - Poplar Valley school teacher at that time.



Building roads with a Fresno



Dalton Tipping's prize moose antlers with spread of 62 inches.



Aida Flat Ladies Sewing Guild.



1st Winfield mens ballteam, L. to R. Top - Harry Dewar, Orrin Day - pitcher, Lionel Shamp _____' _____' _____' Bottom - Clem Shamp., Alfred Engler, Mr. Sparks M.P., Mr. Shamp (Sr)



Fire Rangers - Mr. McLaughlin - Billy Mahoney - Bert Whimster - Wolf Creek Area - '917.



(Seattle) Yeoford Hall in 1971.



Carl Bohning homestead house built about 1932 - still standing



Winfields first girls basketball team. Beryl Day, Dot Nelson, Emma Fraser, Agnes Kovar, Della Shamp, Violet Francis, Lucy Johnson.



Clifford McLaughlin going on Raft down Saskatchewan River - 1917.



4 horse Fresno



Oil well drilling on Phil McGovern land East of Winfield.



Truck power gave out in mud, man power took over

Yeoford Picnic At Loov's 1941 or 1942
Front Ken Logan, _____,
Tucky, Billy Loov, Phyllis Bleakney,
Betty Bunney, Helen Bleakney,
Solveig Loov.

Centre _____, Eirwin Gronow, Mrs.
Asta Loov, Gwyneth Gronow, Gladys
Johnson, Leroy Johnson, _____,
Lorraine Bleakney.

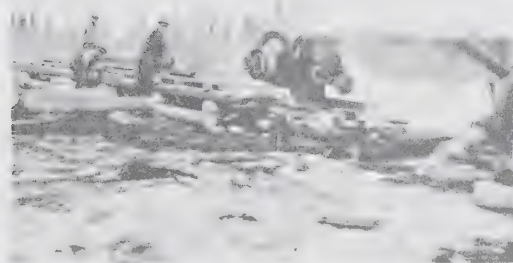
Back _____, Verner Loov, Mrs. Emma
Applyby, _____, _____, Florence
Bunnay, _____, _____, Bill Bunney



Pendryl Post office early 30's



Pendryl School Ball Players 1951.



Shake Mill on Sisson Farm Early 20's



Harvesting in 1971.

Back row - Arlene Sherbourne,
Mildred Grierson, David
Willows, Martin House,
Annie Grierson, Margurite
Willows.

Second row - Jack & Jim
Grierson, Jerry O'Meara.
Third row - Ronnie Willows,
Kathy Sherbourne, Beverly
Willows, Bobbie Madden.
sitting - Milton Grierson,
Jerry Sherbourne.



One man well driller used in 1932



Farming in the 20's



GRADS - 1959 - L. to R. BOYS - Nelson Swanson, Dough Smith, Vance Smith, Bill Russell, Clarence Kluczny, GIRLS - Sheila Hunter, Eleanor Johanson, Margaret Goodkey, Dianne Willows, Kathy _____, Betty Hansen, _____ Parker.



First picnic at Buck Lake Approx. 1916. Taken where Henry Brown now lives. Mr. & Mrs. Harold Weaver, Mr. & Mrs. Oscar Larsson and 3 children, Mr. & Mrs. William Siegel and 4 children, Beatrice Sisson, Mrs. G. Berg and 2 children, Joe Betlamini, A. Nystrom.



Bert Whimster - Fire Keeper and Type Setter on the Edmonton Bulletin - 1917.



First steam engine - Pendryl - 1922 used for threshing grain L. to R. Bortnik, Mrs. G. Berg, Geo Berg, Henry Milo, Fred Bjur, A. Carl, Gust Bjur.



Buck Lake Ladies Friendly Circle early 1940's - L. to R. (Mrs. Clarks 75 birthday) Mrs. C. Donald, Mrs. B. Minor, Mrs. E. Benson, Mrs. B. Bohning, Mrs. Clark, Mrs. L. Brown, Goldie Anderson, Mrs. G. Durant, Mrs. C. Mitchel, Mrs. Osterberg, Mrs. D. Doyle, Mrs. Adams.



Miss Elva Gimblett teacher at North Yeoford school and Jimmy Appleby.



Second Community Picnic - Buck Lake in front of first white mans cabin.



Pendryl School 1953
Back - Mr. David Thomas, Milton Grierson, Jim Grierson, Margaret GoodKye, Daphne Thomas, Mabel Willows, Jerry O'mera, Manley Peterson.
Next row - Bob Grotty, Jack Grierson, Jocelyn Boucher, Clarence Peterson.
Sitting - Victor Engblom, Beverly Willows, Marion GoodKye, Una Boucher, Richard Peterson.



Bill Turnbull sitting. Ed McKenzie - shaving, Bill Steers - right at L. Hendrigans Homestead.



Seattle Community Hall, being moved to Yeoford District from Knob Hill.



Class at North Yeoford School circa 1938.
Back row L. to R. - Alphonse Markunas, Eirwen Gronow, (Mrs. Bill Baumann), Martha Green (Mrs. Bill Runte), Verner Loov.
Centre Row - Mildred Dettman, Della Dettman, Ralph Tuckey, Kenneth Logan.
Front - Dorothy Tuckey, Joyce Heldal.



Wiener Roast at North Yeoford School about 1940.

Back - Eirwin Gronow, Ken Logan, Della Dettman, Ralph Tuckey, Mildred Dettman, Joyce Heldal.
Front - Verner Loov, Alphonse Markunas, Dorothy Tuckey.



Battle Lake Sunday School, 1945.
Back row - Glen Beath, Margaret Hunter, Tillie Hansen, Lizzie Hansen, Jean Miller.
Centre row - Mrs. Jacobson, Mrs. Hansen, Enid Hunter, Grandma Freeman, Mrs. June Beath, Grandma Hunter.
Front row - Bruce Hunter, Mary Ann Hansen, Gayle Kimmy, Beth Hunter, Alan Hunter, Lloyd Beath, Jody Lynn Freeman, Ronald Kimmy, Raymond Beath, Ken Hunter, Elsie Beath.
2046

OTHER FADS

In Gramma's day they walked the line
And wore long petticoats,
And such a crime it was to see
If a bit of one stuck out.
You never knew a girl had legs
For skirts all swept the ground,
They all stood proper, straight and prim
With the opposite sex around.
But sometimes there would be a girl
Who longed to jump and shout,
But she was one who ruined her life
And the one they talked about.
But now I wonder what they thought,
Beneath that bosom prim,
For they'd been taught from cradle up
That all happiness was sin.
I wonder what they'd say to-day,
If they'd come back and see;
The girls and fellows pitching woo -
With the skirts above the knees
They'd nudge each other, and they'd stand:
In groups so horrified:
But in their hearts they'd likely think,
What a shame that they had died!

MRS. VIOLET EISENHAUER.
Chester Basin, Lun. Co.: N.S



Pendryl Elks.
Back row - L. to R. Harold Woodward; Harvey Long, Dick Betlamini; Gunnar Bjur.
Front - Raymond Letourneau; Martin Betlamini; Hector Letourneau; Jack GoodKey; Grover Peterson, Van Peterson & Don GoodKey in background. 2066



Spruce Hill School Christmas 1939.
1st row - Lionel Whitham, Sylvia Hellervik, Elsie Whitham, Lilly Trarback.
2nd row - Walter Eggleston, Peter Whitham, Ida Whitham, Dorothy Eggleston.
Back row - Helmet Trarback, William Trarback, Elsie Trarback, Mrs. Smith (teacher), Wilbur Eggleston, Andrew Trarback.



In the picture are Willa Jones, Don & Colin Gillies, Ted Fowler, Malcolm & Margaret Nicholson, Joe Baynes, Art & Lue & Janice & Bertie Bunney, 2 or 3 Wheales, Rathgebers, Dystings, Nellie Bayes.



Building Winfield Trestle 1-25.



Battle Lake Sunday School, 1946.
 Back row - Lloyd Beath, Ken Hunter, Alan Hunter, Mrs. Jacobson, _____, Grandma Freeman, Jean Miller behind Grandma Hunter, Mrs. Ingaborg Hansen, _____, Mrs. June Beath.
 Centre row - Rev. R. Jacobson, Louis Kimmy, Margaret Hunter, Mary Ann Hansen, Arlene Erickson,
 Behind front row - Beth Hunter, _____, Bruce Hunter, Ronald Kimmy, _____,
 _____,
 Front row - Elise Beath, _____, Gayle Kimmy, _____,
 Jody Lynn Freeman



Cree Valley School Class 1934.
 Back - Gwyneth Gronow, Willah Jones, Gunhild Frome, LaRene Nadeau, Alice Young.
 Centre - Olive Nadeau, Doreen Fullerton, Marie Nadeau, Mary Dooley, Eirwin Gronow, Marion Hagen, Willa Huff, _____ (back turned), Catherine Huff, Delia Bachand.
 Front - Kels Hagen peeking around Bud Nadeau, Bill Freeman behind Axel Frome, Bobby Hay & Albert Bachand behind Edward Gronow, Armand Nadeau, Henry Frome.



Farming in the 20's



Farming in the 20's



Homesteaders Ox in front of Yeoford Store sometime in 1910's.



Winfield Ladies Softball Team - 1941.
 L. to R. Norie Salter, Joyce Woodbridge, Lorraine & Louise Nadeau, Beth Thalheimer, Florence Nadeau, Lucille Clark, Nellie Pollock, Toots Gibbons, Esther Gillespie, Lois Warner, Louise Barrett.



Four Generations of the Quick family are shown left to right: Leslie and his father Fill of Breton, David Quick of Winfield and Forest Quick, formerly of Fisher's Home, now retired at the age of 87 and living at Breton.



Mr. Brian taught school at Maywood in 1922 - Charles Long and sister Mildred all ready to set out for school.



Herman Calhoun - Buck Lake 1957.



Bill Taylor at his homestead at Pendryl.

THE VILLAGE BLACKSMITH IS GONE

The village blacksmith is gone.
 The man with the arms of brown;
 No more he'll make the sparklets fly.
 He just closed up with a heavy sigh.
 No more he'll make the anvil ring.
 As downward his hammer he ironed swing;
 No more we'll talk of events of the day
 In the little shop which was just down the way.
 Where are the sturdy horses he used to show?
 With his arms of brown without adieu;
 They too have passed to the great beyond
 And the animals of which we all were fond
 No more he'll build circular fire
 To heat the old wagon's worn tire;
 Even the old farm wagon has passed away
 And now you can buy them for a song.
 No more he'll charge the little accounts
 With items he'd done for, like amounts;
 His pencil just more short and thin
 And he closed his books with a saddened grin.
 Well, the people who declare that
 the auto has completely replaced
 the horse may have second thoughts
 if they look around to discover
 how many bronze statues there are
 of a man sitting on a horse
 and how few behind a steering wheel.

MRS. H. H. GALLOWAY,
 Alameda, Sask.

Heritage

Farmers, stand tall! You owe allegiance
 to a past
 Of stalwart men and women who have
 cast
 Their shadow, strong across this
 nation's face.
 They blazed a trail! Be proud to take
 your place
 Within these ranks, there honor lies.
 No man lowers himself and tries
 To cheat this "Heritage of the Sod"
 But cheats himself, his country, and
 his God.
 Hold fast to old time virtues; cling
 To integrity; into your life, bring
 Patriotism, thrift, concern for fellow
 men,
 Claim your full heritage, then
 If some lamps of conscience flicker;
 let us keep ours in trim,
 It may be they can lead the way, if
 other lights should dim.

Lula Lamme



1st Minnehik Hall, early 1930's



Fire front between Alder Flats and Buck Lake, Spring of 1949.



Dalton Tipping "on the job" as Fire Ranger.



John Anderson - setting the first logs on the barn.



Peter Langmore early 1930's



Look out tower at Buck Mountain. Jack and Thelma Dempsey.



Evan Vaughn - Sunburst bus driver for many years from Winfield to Wetaskiwin, often going on to Edmonton. Later his route ran to Buck Lake.



Speakman Family 1935



Spruce Hill School 1950.



Knob Hill Church.



Kaplers Log House - 1935



Buck Lake School children, about 1941



Shaw's cabin on west side of White Creek - still standing.



Maywood School Class in 1954.



Rev. Alcock after having baptize baby Donnie GoodKey



hauling mail 1947 - from Winfield to Algonquin Flats.



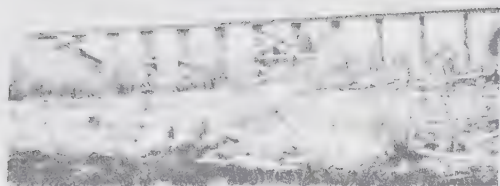
The Millionaire - One of the Battle Lake characters who will live in peoples memories is "The Millionaire". - Oscar Olin a Finlander came from Iowa in 1911 and bought up land in this area. He lived on a hogsback jutting out into the swamp just north west of Mount Butte near Yeoford store on SE 30-46-2-W5. Mt. Butte in the background. When he passed away Ivo Bunney found him on the edge of the bed with his pants half on - or was it half off. It was undecided if he was going to bed or getting up.



Roy Adams with Jim Willows team.



Buck Lake Flood - 1944 summer.



Building Winfield Trestle 1925.



Building Maywood School 1920



First store at Pendryl owned by Sam Weaver, early 1920's.



One of the Railway Surveyers Huts - Town Lake.



Catholic Church Winfield - 1938.



Alder Flats School children - 1935.



Bert Taylor and the oxen he sold to C.B. Long.

Road grader on construction of railroad between Town Lake & Winfield.



4 of the original pupils at the first school at Buck Lake.

L. to R. - Fred Bjur, Lena (Bjur) Brown, Gilbert Siegle, Einar Larsson.



Alder Flats school children about 1940.



Mr. W.J. Mahoney, enlisted 1915.



First threshing outfit - Buck Lake owned by Bjurs & Siegels - 1918.



The ACES soft ball team at Wenham Valley July 1, 1937.

Back row L. to R. - Kathy Bunney, Birdie Bunney, Christine Nickolson, Ann Hanson, Mona Shepherd, Margaret Nickolson, Peggy Shepherd.

Front - Ruth Mattson, Alma Ried, Nette Anderson, Ruth Bunney



Maywood Class about 1930-31.

Left to right - Audrey Long, Mildred Long, Minnie Brown, Inis Bjur, Ivan Bjur.

Centre - Christine Wickman, Stella Pocha, Iris Brown, Ellis Huegle, Walter Engblom.

Front - Louis Huegle, Hazel Berg, Norma Pocha, Gunnar Bjur, Sylvia Wickman, Irene Bjur, Ruth Wickman, Alfhild Wickman, Harvey Long.

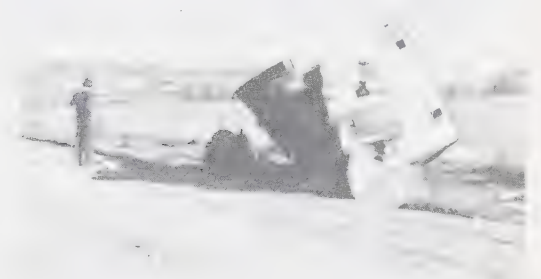


Maywood School Class about 1928.

Back row - left to right - Roy Berg, Astrid Bjur, Clifton Berg, Mildred Long, Audrey Long, Muriel Ellsworth.

Centre row - Minnie Brown, Inis Bjur, Iris Brown, Ingrid Bjur, Ivan Bjur.

Front row - Irma Vigen, Hazel Berg & cousin, Irene Bjur.



Louis Gillespie truck - the universal broke & he came backwards down Murfitt Hill onto Ilo Bunney Hay Flat.

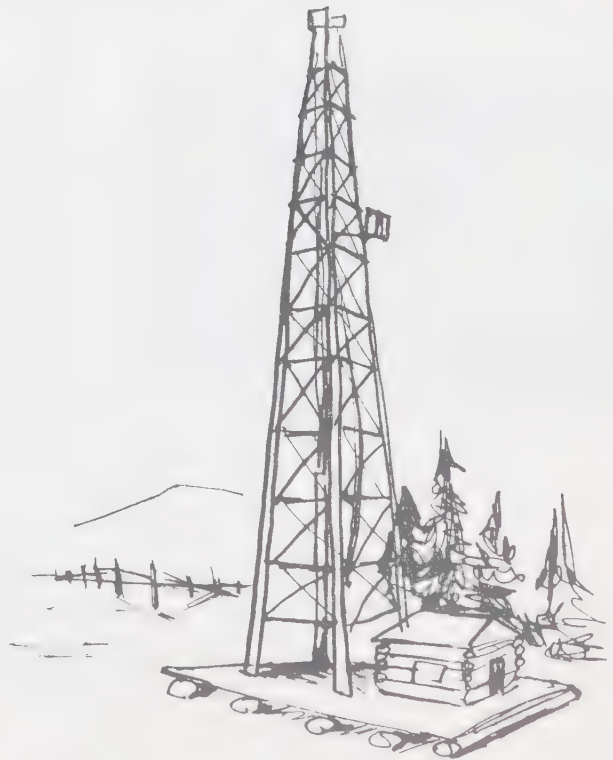


Cree Valley School, 1940.

Top row - Albert Bachand, Archie Young, Bob Hay, Betty Hempstock, Olga Halisheff, Margaret Hunter, Leo Bachand, Armand Nadeau, Henry Frome.

Middle row - Glen Beath, Bob Hempstock, Betty Beath, Edith Hempstock, Barbara Phippen, Gwen Hay, Allan Hunter, Leo Fontaine.

Bottom row - Art Bachand, Douglas Hempstock, Edith Hunter, Margaret Frome, Vera Nilsson, Lloyd Beath, Ernest Bachand.





Maywood School - Mr. Magginess and class 1943-44.



West Point School children 1948.



First store in Battle Lake District - owned by W.B. Fullerton - located at East end of Battle Lake.



Seattle School built 1913-14 - Knob Hill district.



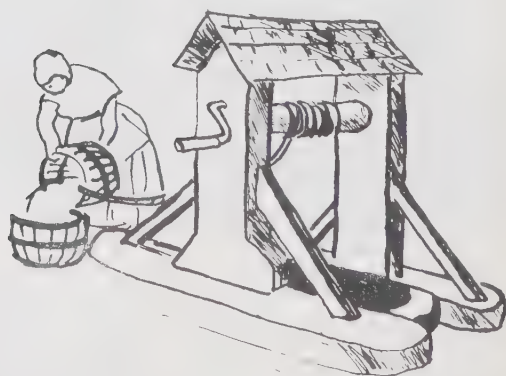
First car to arrive in Buck Lake, owned by Gus Hellgren, shown with Bjur children.



Maypole dance at track meet 1942. Buck Lake school children.

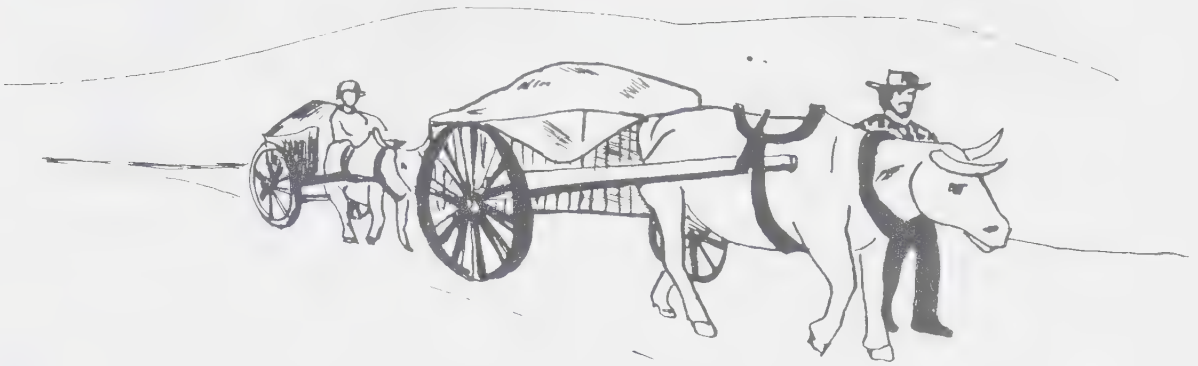


First square dance lessons. Buck Lake Hall 1954.



First Buck Lake Hall - made of logs, situated on Herman Siegels land - a community project.

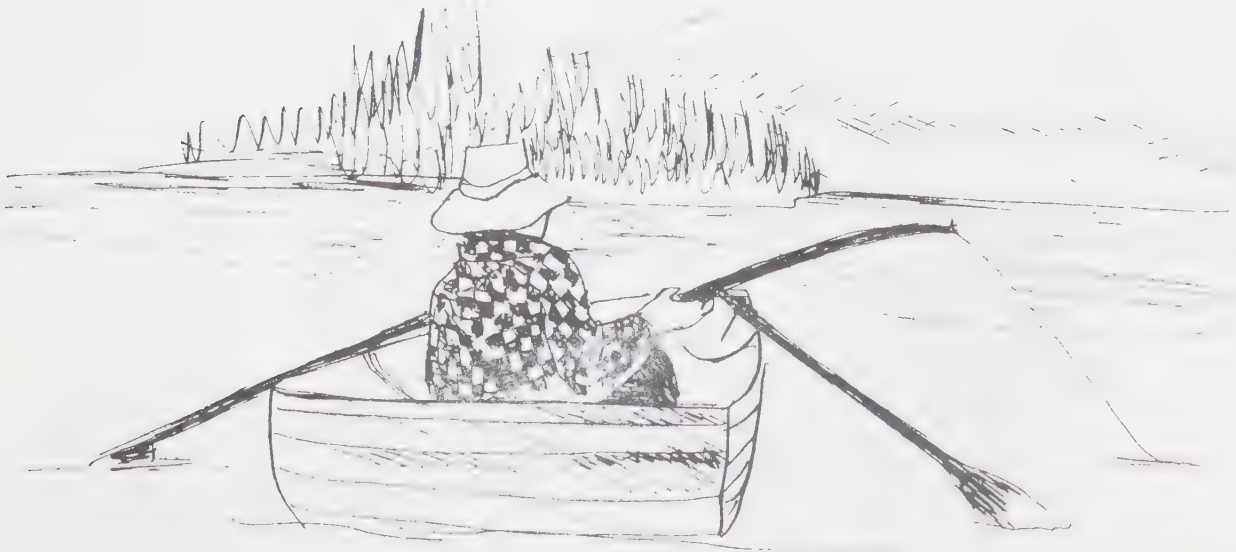
Speakman Family, 1935.



I remember the slates we used to do our school work on. We had to use a slate-pencil on them, which was grey and about six inches long when new. Slates were approx. 10 x 15 inches. When lesson was finished it was erased ready for next lesson, by using a small cloth dampened in water. Of course the boys couldn't always be bothered, so would use spit and their sleeve. There were no black-boards. A map of the world usually hung at the front of the room, and was a source of many games when winter days were long.

I remember the ride home in a Democrat after my tonsils were removed earlier that same day, by members of the travelling clinic. The old Pendryl Hall served as operating room. The year 1928 or 1929.

I remember Etter-McDougal's at one time claimed they owned all the toilets between Westeros and Alder Flats - built from lumber lost along the way, from their truck loads.



Henry Brown hauled the first carload of lumber out of the district with horses over the roughest possible roads, from Burrows lumber mill to Hoadley.

Shaws cabin on west side of Wolfe Creek - still standing.

Kaplers log house - 1935.

I remember the Sunday School class taught by Mr. T. Turnbull at Pendryl School in 1928, and the award of a new Testament for reciting from memory the 23rd Psalm.

Second Buck Lake Hall - a cookhouse from Bear Creek Mill. Hauled across the lake with eight or more horses. Placed near Lake shore where fisheries building stands at present. It was made of mostly half inch lumber with tar paper and stripped with lumber on the outside. It was approx. 30 x 50. Many good times were had here before it was replaced by the large new building owned in partnership by Jim Miller, Ed Hunter and Clayton Sabin. The Cookhouse Hall was used by the travelling clinic one year. It was pouring rain and being inside sure didn't help much.'



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